

Doctors demand lifting of ban on specialist

By Sarah Beeley

A letter signed by 85 per cent of GPs in the Tower Hamlets district of East London was handed to the district health authority yesterday, demanding the reinstatement of a leading obstetrician, Mrs Wendy Savage, who has been suspended for alleged malpractice.

One of the GPs leading the protest, Dr Mary Edmondson, said at Steel's Lane health centre yesterday that 68 out of the district's 84 GPs had signed, and four more were on holiday.

She said: "This speaks volumes on the way in which Mrs Savage is regarded in this district, particularly since alleged malpractice is involved, which is a very serious complaint. Despite this, the doctors have had enough confidence in her to put their names to this letter."

The letter was read to a noisy meeting of the health authority last night. About 50 protesters, many of them women with babies, went to the meeting and demanded to know details of the five complaints against the consultant.

A further petition from medical students taught by Mrs Savage at The London Hospital, containing 149 signatures—about 75 per cent of those canvassed—was also read out. It expressed support for "an inspiring and conscientious teacher."

Letters signed by about 100 hospital staff, from the local branch of the National Childbirth Trust and from the Community Health Council—which demanded an inquiry into the obstetrician's gynaeology department at The London Hospital, where some of the complaints are thought to have originated—were also given to the committee.

The district health authority chairman, Mr Frank Cumberlege, told the meeting that the matter was sub judice pending an inquiry, which is the next step in medical disciplinary procedures.

The inquiry would be chaired by a QC appointed by the Department of Health, he said, sitting with two doctors from outside the area.

Mrs Savage, senior lecturer in obstetrics and gynaeology at The London Hospital medical school, was suspended last week. Doctors in Tower Hamlets said yesterday that only one of the complaints against her came from a patient and concerned a perinatal death. The other charges involve caesarian sections. None concerns abortion.

The doctors are incensed about the suspension because they believe the dispute really stems from conflict within the hospital about Mrs Savage's enthusiasm for community projects.

Dr Edmondson said: "She virtually restarted, single-handed, domiciliary deliveries in Tower Hamlets, which is a deprived area. Like this is not easy." Mrs Savage also believes in minimum intervention by doctors in the birth, and allowing women to choose their own way to deliver.

Ironically, the GPs whose workloads were increased by her methods are solidly behind her.

The doctors say that Mrs Savage is the only woman consultant obstetrician at the hospital, and that many women, particularly from the Asian community, will be distressed at being attended by a man.

Fire rages

A forest fire was threatening to reach homes in Devon last night. More than 100 firemen were trying to beat down the fire on Bracken Hill, Bovey Tracey, before it reached homes.

Review for nursing and visitor services

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

A review of the community nursing and health visitor services was announced by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the health minister, last night.

Mrs Julia Cumberlege, Conservative chairman of East Sussex social services committee, will head the inquiry, which will include two management consultants and a member of the public.

Mr Clarke made the announcement in a written parliamentary answer to Mr David Knox, Conservative MP for Staffordshire Moorlands.

He said: "We have decided to take a fresh look at the role of nurses, midwives and health visitors working as part of primary health care teams and in

OBITUARY

Tory MP

MR TOM HOOSON, MP for Brecon and Radnor, died yesterday aged 52. A former chairman of the Bow group and director of Conservative party communications, he was elected to Parliament in 1979.

Orgreave 'targeted' by picketing miners

By Malcolm Pithers

The trial of 15 miners accused of rioting at the Orgreave coking plant near Rotherham began in Sheffield yesterday with the prosecution alleging there had been organised violence on "an appalling scale" with pickets mauling in the streets, demolishing lamp standards, making and throwing Molotov cocktails, building barricades and hurling bricks, stones and bottles at the police.

The men, from Scotland, South Wales, Co Durham, Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire, all denied charges of riotous assembly. Their trial is likely to last nearly a month.

This morning the judge, jury and barristers in the case will travel by coach from Sheffield crown court to view the site of the Orgreave plant where, the court heard, 5,000 demonstrators gathered on June 18 last year.

Yesterday Mr Brian Walsh, QC for the Crown, showed the all-male jury exhibits of pick-axes, a club, a metal tubular bar, ball bearings and spikes collected by the police at Orgreave.

He explained that the Orgreave plant, owned by the British Steel Corporation, was an important target for the pickets, because fuel supplies went to the steelworks at Scunthorpe.

In a lengthy preamble to the trial Mr Walsh recapitulated events leading up to the Orgreave picketing. He said that people would suggest that what they had intended was a peaceful attempt to persuade some factory drivers not to collect coal for the plant.

He said that Orgreave became the focal point of the dispute between the miners and the NCB. It was obvious to Yorkshire miners, their leaders, "supporters and eggheads," that the inter-

ference with the ability of Orgreave to produce coke would cause serious damage to the BSC, which was a major customer of the coal board.

He told the jury that riots, as far as the trial was concerned, referred to three or

MINERS at Ireland Colliery near Chesterfield yesterday ended a 24-hour strike in protest at five Yorkshire face workers joining the pit. The NCB said there was a shortage of experienced local face workers.

more people gathering together who had a common purpose by using force to help each other against anyone who might oppose them.

Mr Walsh said: "The Crown says that there was a riot going on and that that is beyond a shadow of a doubt and that

these men were there intending to take part in a riot. The law in this country says people must be permitted to go about mauling the streets, ripping their clothes, or bringing stones, bricks, paving stones, bottles, iron bars, and arguments or persuasion but using metal fencing as spears.

Vehicles had been taken from a garage over-turned and set on fire. Molotov cocktails had been made with fuel. Wooden sticks, leaning at an angle of between 45 and 70 degrees, had been put into the road at a height which might have been used to penetrate the chest of a police officer.

He said the jury might think that "the demonstrators at Orgreave had been organised and co-ordinated. They had used walkie-talkies, radios, and had travelled there from all over the country, from South Wales and from Scotland."

Mr Walsh said that no miner by June 18 could possibly have been unaware of the chaos and violence on previous occasions

at Orgreave. The violence on the former Assistant Chief Constable Tony Clement, had thought the police lines would be broken. He dispersed the demonstrators by using mounted police armed with truncheons and riot shields.

Mr Walsh said the jury would hear evidence from bouncers, who had seen pickets' antics outside their properties and rip down walls or fencing or overturn their vehicles. Many people locked themselves in their homes.

The hearing continues today.

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Airport halves Falklands transport costs

By Patrick Keatley, Diplomatic Correspondent

The opening of the new Mount Pleasant Airport in the Falkland Islands on Sunday will enable the RAF to phase out most of its refuelling over the south Atlantic. It will reduce the transport bill from its present annual level of £60 million to around £30 million.

Prince Andrew, already serving in the territory as a naval officer, will represent the Queen in performing the opening ceremony.

The second phase of the project to provide a crosswind runway and thus to make the airport operational for aircraft in all wind conditions is scheduled to be finished in mid-1982.

The precise timing and arrangements of this weekend's opening ceremony have not been announced in Whitehall, because the Argentine government has refused to announce the ending of hostilities since the abortive invasion of 1982.

The Alfonso government in Buenos Aires has been neither invited to the airport opening nor notified of it.

Starting next week, RAF wide-bodied Tri-Stars will take over the Falklands run from Brize Norton, via Ascension Island, where there will be a 90-minute refuelling stop instead of the previous overnight sleep and change of plane.

Things could have been different. The Hercules transports on the second leg meant that the journey lasted 13 hours. This will be cut to nine, with the first leg from Brize Norton to 84 hours.

The reduction will be for two Hercules flights per week for cargoes of awkward weight or shape. But the RAF's Tri-Star fleet will be modified to enable the last of the Hercules to be phased out at the end of

the year, British Airways has a six-month charter contract to provide 747 jumbo jets during this time, to keep up the full schedule.

The Defence Secretary, Mr Heseltine, will head a large group of political and public figures taking a Tri-Star proving flight for the ceremony.

The latest Whitehall estimate for the cost of the airport, 30 miles from Port Stanley, is £276 million, which includes terminal buildings and approach roads. A separate account of £119 million covers civil engineering works for the army and harbour work for the navy. The RAF is spending £48 million at Ascension for facilities which, it says, are unconnected with the Falklands operation and would have had to be built anyway.

But some buildings will be used by the Tri-Star crews. *Seamus Milne adds:* The new Falklands airport is a waste of money, according to Dr Paul Rogers of Bradford University's School of Peace Studies.

In a report on the base for the Quaker-backed school, Dr Rogers says the facilities show no signs of housing the island's economy and that the two runways will be vulnerable.

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'Aids carrier' in hospital at top security prison

By Aileen Ballantyne

A potential Aids carrier is being nursed in the hospital wing at Wakefield top security prison, the Home Office said yesterday.

It also gave details of two further suspected cases, one of a woman recently released from Lower Newton gaol, near Durham, and one of a man at Wandsworth prison in London. He was transferred to Ham-mersmith hospital two weeks ago showing symptoms compatible with Aids.

But the Home Office refused to confirm a claim by the Prison Officers' Association that a second prisoner was under observation in Wakefield's hospital wing.

A spokesman for the POA said that the woman suspected of having Aids had been jailed for 28 days for prostitution offences more than two months ago. She was found to have Aids antibodies after a

blood test, and was held in the prison hospital before being released.

Such a case showed the need for Aids to be made a notifiable disease, said the spokesman.

The second man at Wakefield gaol had a homosexual relationship with the potential carrier, a year ago, outside prison, he said.

The first man in Wakefield had been found to have Aids antibodies in his blood about a month ago, but it was not possible to tell whether he was a carrier or if he would become ill with the disease.

The POA said it was now satisfied that all possible precautions were being taken by the Home Office to deal with suspected Aids cases, but stressed that it remained concerned that the second man at Wakefield had already been in the prison system for a year.

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Mr Clarke made the announcement in a written parliamentary answer to Mr David Knox, Conservative MP for Staffordshire Moorlands.

He said: "We have decided to take a fresh look at the role of nurses, midwives and health visitors working as part of primary health care teams and in

Children score

More than 100 schoolchildren are to be invited to a civic reception for Manchester United on May 19, the day after the Cup Final against Everton. It was announced yesterday. The move is part of the Labour-controlled Manchester City Council's plan to open up its town hall "to the people."

FoE drive for forests

By James Erlichman

A worldwide campaign to stop the rapid destruction of tropical rain forests on three continents was launched by Friends of the Earth in London yesterday.

Mr Jonathan Porritt, director of FoE and leader of the Ecology Party, said that the international pressure group was ready for a 10-year battle to end devastation of the world's most important natural resource.

He pledged support from activists in 27 countries who were preparing to tackle governments, consumers and the corporations responsible for the forests' destruction.

"It is time to move away from seals, whales, tigers, gorillas and other single endangered species," said Mr Charles Secret, who will lead the campaign from London.

In Britain, FoE is concentrating its attack on the timber industry, and the group yesterday called on consumers to boycott all products from furniture to construction materials to furniture to construction materials to furniture to construction materials.

But the UK Timber Trade Federation said yesterday that its member firms did very little logging in the rain forests.

NUM may sue German bank

By Patrick Wintour, Labour Staff

The National Union of miners may take legal action against the German bank IKB of Dusseldorf. The union believes that the bank wrongly handed over £4 million of its money earlier this year to the court-appointed receiver Mr Michael Arnold.

The money had been lodged with NCB's Finance, IKB's Luxembourg subsidiary, and the union contends that under Luxembourg banking law the money should not have been transferred without the union's permission.

Mr Arnold used the £4 million as an indemnity against IKB by the union.

A spokesman for the receiver said last night that he had no knowledge of any pending legal action. Since the receiver was the trustee of the union's funds, the indemnity had in reality not been taken out by the receiver but by the NUM.

Any legal action against IKB, which rebounded on the receiver would in the final report, rebound upon the NUM's funds.

The union's delegate committee in a meeting voted to reject a £4 million sent ahead during the strike, in what was seen as a prelude to purging its contingent and reclaiming control of its funds. However, £2.7 million sent to Dublin during the strike, in what was seen as a prelude to purging its contingent and reclaiming control of its funds. However, £2.7 million sent to Dublin during the strike, in what was seen as a prelude to purging its contingent and reclaiming control of its funds.

The NUM executive yesterday deferred until next Tuesday a decision on what disciplinary action, if any, to take

Thousands of former striking miners may be able to claim benefits denied to their wives and children after a ruling by the Social Security Commission yesterday.

The commissioners have ruled that the Department of Health acted illegally by deducting benefits from striking miners, wives and children while they received loans from local authorities and social services departments.

The ruling followed a test case brought by Mr Alexander Haddock, from Cornshead, who was denied benefit for his family during a week when his local authority gave him a £15 loan. He lost his case at a social security tribunal last year but the commissioners have now overturned the tribunal's decision.

Mr Gordon Brown, Labour MP for Dumfriesshire, East, who helped Mr Haddock to bring his case, said yesterday: "The judgment shows clearly that the department has acted illegally because the money was a loan, not a capital payment."

This ruling affects thousands of miners in Scotland alone because authorities like BSC gave out money to loan to striking miners. It also applies in England, since social services departments also gave loans to striking miners under the Child Care Act.

He would table a series of questions to Mr Norman Fowler, the Social Services Secretary, asking him to specify how many people will be affected and what arrangements will be made to pay them.

Mr Brown added that the Department of Health would need to bring a case to the Court of Sessions in Scotland if it wanted to appeal against the commissioners' ruling. "I think this is highly unlikely because the commissioners are normally the final part of the appeal process in social security cases."

The Department of Health said last night that it would have to study the ruling in detail before deciding what action to take.

Car security

Specially guarded car parks are to be provided for tourists in Dublin this summer to counter an outbreak of vehicle thefts. The move follows complaints about vandalism and car stealing from visitors to the Irish Capital last year, and intervention by the British Embassy.

The Law Lords upheld the appeal of Mrs Bernadette Ryan, of Hollywood Road, Wythenshawe, Manchester.

She said that she had called the police to her home to investigate a burglary. During a conversation with the police officer she admitted that she had bought a stolen video recorder for £110.

The magistrates dismissed the case but the Greater Manchester Police appealed to the High Court, which ordered the magistrates to find her guilty. The Law Lords yesterday reversed this decision.

Lord Roskill said the language which the draftsman had used in the act had fallen a long way short of allowing a guilty conviction.

Part of the act reads: "A person may be guilty of attempting to commit an offence if he does so with intent to commit the offence and the facts are such that the commission of the offence is impossible."

The Law Lord said the language of the act would need to be much clearer and drastic than that to achieve a conviction in the case.

Lord Bridge, who concurred, said: "There is no more fertile field of legal controversy in the criminal law than that concerned with attempting the impossible."

"If one thing emerges clearly from the literature on the subject, it is that there is no consensus as to what the law ought to be, let alone as to what the law is."

Lord Edmund-Davies dissented. He said that either the video recorder had been stolen, in which case Mrs Ryan was guilty of an attempt to receive; or the recorder had not been stolen, in which case Mrs Ryan was guilty of attempted handling under the 1961 Act.

Strikers may be able to claim benefits

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Law lords face the impossible

By Malcolm Dean

FOUR Law Lords ruled yesterday that even the 1961 Criminal Attempts Act would not allow a person to be convicted for attempting the impossible.

By a four to one majority the Lords ruled that a woman who believed she had bought a stolen video recorder could not be convicted for attempting to handle stolen goods because the recorder was not stolen.

The appeal—the first under section one of the 1961 act to reach the Lords—knocks a large hole in the intention behind the act.

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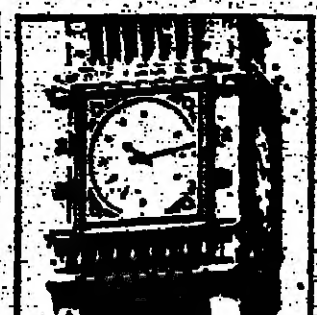
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David McKie

Bags of warp, not much whoof

HAD she picked-up a bag of Bon? Or was she apprehensive, perhaps, about the statement she was shortly to make on the failure of her security services to spot there was something odd about Michael Bettaney even as he staggered down the street, his pocket ablaze, in a cumbersome pursuit of a swiftly disappearing thief?

Or maybe there was something still more political about the change which seemed to have come over the Prime Minister at question time yesterday, as he sombre and subdued, where normally she likes to belt the ball back over the net like Navratilova.

Possibly she already saw in her mind's eye a seething sea of Tories waiting in Perth eager to pounce on her with complaints about rating revaluation when she really ought to be spending the day quietly at home, easing Denis gently into his seventies.

Or was there something deeper still in yesterday's transformation: the start of a grand re-orientation. The news must have got through by now of the complaints on the doorstep during the county elections about her brassiness, her bossiness, her habit of sounding as though she was always right.

At question time yesterday that had gone. She didn't hector. When Labour's Ray Powell, with VE Day in

mind, berated her for failing to create a Wales fit for heroes to live in, there was no swift retort, no rebuke: only an assurance of anxiety and concern.

And later when, on the Bettaney statement, Labour's elder statesman, Merlyn Rees, repeated a demand which had already been made and dismissed, for complaints commissioner for the security services, she suddenly seemed to soften. No commitments—but all right, she would consider it.

We shall learn in the next few days whether what she witnessed yesterday was the beginning of a deliberate shift in style—or whether it was just a bug from Bonn after all.

With Mrs Thatcher in this mood the real passion yesterday began only after she had waded through the protection of your which has lit up the place twice in the past fortnight broke out again yesterday as the eager, earnest Minister of State for Trade,



Getting a first-hand, and first-foot, impression of conditions in inner-city Bradford is Sir Richard O'Brien, who has been visiting several areas of urban deprivation as chairman of the Archbishop of Canterbury's commission on the Church's urban priorities. The commission's report is due to be published later in the year, and is expected to lead to a two-year programme of action. Sir Richard talked to local church and civic leaders, who told him that Bradford still had a densely populated inner city, and that there was a strong sense of local identity.

Picture by Dennis Thorpe

CRE considers case against solicitors

By David Rose

Allegations that solicitors are racist in refusing to brief black barristers are to be considered by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), the chairman, Mr Peter Newsam, said last night.

At a meeting earlier in the day with representatives of the black bar, led by Mr Sibghat Kadri, a former president of the Society of Black Lawyers, Mr Newsam was told of the formation of a monitoring project to gather evidence of discrimination.

The project will apply for funding to the CRE and hopes that its evidence will be followed by a full-scale investigation into the solicitors' profession by the commission, under the terms of the Race Relations Act.

The project pre-empted a meeting between the Law Society and the bar senate later this month called to discuss the allegations. Last night, Mr Kadri said that he had no faith in the Law Society's ability to confront the problem and that independent action was necessary.

It is thought that the planned monitoring project will concentrate on cases where black defendants have written to barristers asking them to take on their cases.

only to be overruled by white solicitors. Mr Kadri said that he had personal experience of this in at least 40 cases during the past two years, and he also asked Mr Newsam yesterday to write on behalf of the CRE to prison governors, asking them to ensure that black prisoners were fully aware of their right to choose counsel.

Mr Newsam said that he was seriously concerned at the evidence he was given yesterday and added that the application for a grant would be seriously considered. "There was as far as he was aware, no provision by the Law Society to ensure that equality of opportunity was observed and he felt that there was a marked reluctance by the profession to address the problem. In any institution where this type of decision is left entirely to the discretion of individuals, there is always a possibility that things will go wrong," he said.

The problem was made worse, because any attempt to complain by barristers ran the risk of breaking rules of professional conduct, he said.

"It's a really serious issue which has to be confronted: the equivalent of a company recruiting entirely by word of mouth — if it's all white it will go on being all white."

Fall by over a third in overseas students

By David Hearst

The number of overseas students studying in Britain has fallen by over a third since Mrs Thatcher came to power, the British Council said yesterday. The council said that Britain was losing ground to Japan, France and the United States, which will expand their scholarship programme by 50 per cent next year.

The overseas student population in Britain fell from 88,037 in 1979-80 to 55,608 in 1983-84. The council said that the Asian market had been captured by America. The number of Chinese, Indonesian and Malaysian students studying there has risen by up to one third in the last two academic years.

Mr Derek Beard, assistant director general of the council, said: "These figures are not good news for a country which

prides itself on the international reputation of higher education. Worldwide, about one million people are studying overseas and the number is increasing by 14 per cent a year. But between 1976 and 1981 our share of the market fell by 25 per cent and is still falling."

Mr Beard said that West Germany contributed £400 million a year for the education of 66,000 students, and France taught 100,000 students a year. The council said that the number of Commonwealth students has fallen by 37 per cent since 1978-9. The fall in overseas students, which was started by the Government's decision that they should pay the full cost of their higher education fees, had been partially offset by a £87 million government programme to subsidise students from developing countries.

Hormone banned

By David Pallister

Doctors were told yesterday to stop giving pituitary gland hormones to children with growth problems.

The hormone treatment has already been banned in the United States after the death of three Americans in their twenties and thirties who were treated several years ago.

They died of a very rare disease, creutzfeldt-jacob, which normally affects only old people. It is a terminal disease following progressive dementia.

A spokesman for the DHSS said that supplies in this country, from the Centre of Applied Microbiological Research at Porton Down, were produced differently, from America. But it was felt prudent to stop the treatment. Genetically produced hormones are undergoing tests at the moment and it is hoped that this method will be used in the near future.

Scrutiny of police

By Stephen Cook

The new Police Complaints Authority is to use its discretionary power to supervise police investigations into two instances of alleged misconduct by officers, although no member of the public has made a complaint.

The first is the allegation that officers in Merseyside have been using police computers to find the winners of a car number plate competition being run by BP and National and suggesting that they share the prize. The PCA decided to supervise because of the "considerable public interest."

The second is the case of Mr Ronald Herrigan, who was discharged at Chelmsford Crown Court last week by Mr Justice Forbes. The judge said the police had acted in a bullying and oppressive manner while obtaining an alleged confession that he had killed his mother. Essex Police referred the case to the PCA.

Judges to train in family matters

By Malcolm Dean

JUDGES who hear family and civil court cases are to receive training, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, announced yesterday.

The move will be welcomed by family law reform groups, which have joined the Law Society in criticising the courts for inconsistent judgments on family cases over which the bench has wide discretion.

Judicial training programmes in Britain have lagged behind many other countries. Many judges believed they did not need training but residential seminars were introduced in the 1970s.

A Judicial Studies Board was set up in 1979 after a working party chaired by Lord Bridge produced a report on judicial training.

The new three-day training seminars will concentrate on issues like access, custody and division of property in family proceedings and housing and debt in civil cases.

Last year, the Judicial Studies Board organised three such seminars for some 240 experienced crown court judges and recorders.

Training seminars in civil and family jurisdictions will begin next year. Officials at the Lord Chancellor's Department estimate that all 400 registrars, one-third of the 1,000 recorders and half the 375 circuit judges will attend the seminars.

Reform will reduce the numbers eligible

Means-testing is planned for home repair grants

By Geoff Andrews, Local Government Correspondent

The Government is planning a sweeping reform of housing improvement system to make many more homes eligible for grant — but only a fraction of their owners.

Through a system of means-testing designed to make sure that those who cannot afford vital repairs get the most assistance, and to do away with the present inequitable method, based on rateable value, the new grant system points to a sharp reduction in the number of people who will qualify.

Apart from the basic grants, the new system also proposes an interest-free loan system for repairs in which owner-occupiers will have to sign over part of the equity of their home to the local authority.

The house will be valued and the percentage of the grant calculated, so that as the value of the house appreciated, the council's share would increase. If, for example, the house doubled in value, the council would take back twice the amount in grant.

The system was criticised yesterday by housing organisations. The housing charity, Shac, said that it was a disappointing response to a good opportunity for reform and suggested that the conditions for qualification looked to be just as arbitrary as the old rating system.

The director of the Inset of Housing, Mr Peter McGurk, said that the green paper outlining the possible changes was



Mr Ian Gow: giving nothing away

a clear signal that the Government intended to reduce spending. It would lead to a decline in the quality of housing.

The green paper is designed to launch legislation within the year which could lead to the new regulations coming into force in the autumn of next year.

It takes as its cornerstone the idea that owners are primarily responsible for their own repairs and improvements and seeks measures to involve the leading institutions in the building industry and encourage owners to help themselves.

The limit on the age of houses which qualify for grant would be changed from those built before 1919 to any pre-war housing.

To qualify for one of the new grants a house owner will have to undergo a means test, probably linked to a reformed housing benefit system.

What limits will be imposed before an owner loses out on the grants is still far from certain although figures of £30 a week and savings of £3,000 have been suggested as the top limits.

Mr Ian Gow, the Housing Minister, would give away nothing yesterday when he introduced the green paper, and although the change has obviously been priced, probably at a lower level than current spending, he would only say that it would be "unwise when you are moving to a new system to make a forecast of what the take-up would be."

One of the problems which will face local authorities having to administer a system like the one envisaged in yesterday's document would be the administrative costs of means tests that will have to have a sliding scale of assets versus costs of the repairs if a new form of poverty trap is to be avoided.

Under the proposals, all improvement and repair work to bring a house up to a "standard of fitness" would attract grant so long as the owner passed the eligibility test.

The loans would be discretionary for improvements above the level of the fitness standard and would be subject to the same eligibility tests.

Housing Improvement—A New Approach. Cmnd 9513, Stationery Office, £3.50.

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Levy on commercial TV stations 'should increase'

By Dennis Barker

The Independent Broadcasting Authority, the Home Office and the Treasury were urged yesterday to take action to force commercial television companies and radio contractors to increase the annual levy paid to the Exchequer on profits.

In a report published yesterday Sir Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor-General, points out that the levy has scarcely altered over the last 10 years, even though advertising revenue had increased fivefold in the same period.

Levy payments in 1983-84 totalled £23.5 million, compared with net advertising revenue of £850 million. "As a comparison," the report says, "contractors paid almost the same amount 10 years ago on advertising revenue of about £150 million."

ITV companies may deduct their subscriptions to Channel 4, their profits from exports and various other sums from their published profits for the

purpose of assessing taxable profit. In 1982-83, the year chosen by the National Audit Office for its report, the largest ITV company, Thames, paid no levy — under criteria laid down by the IBA — although it took over £115 million in advertising revenue and had pre-levy profits of over £9 million.

A Thames spokesman said yesterday that the company did not read the report as an indictment of itself. "Because our revenue from overseas sales, at £18 million, was as great as the rest of the ITV network put together, we are doing our bit for the Exchequer in paying tax on profits, even if we did not pay this particular levy," he said.

A Treasury and Home Office group which has been investigating the financial set-up of commercial television is expected to call for a levy to be paid on profits from overseas sales, but for these profits, it might have slipped into the red.

Some ministers would like to see levy imposed on advertising revenue rather than on profits, since they believe that a levy on profits encourages over-spending by the companies.

Mr David Shaw, general secretary of the Independent Television Companies' Association, said yesterday that he hoped the drift of the report would not be a back door method of trying to make Channel 4 financially self-supporting, so that ITV companies did not have to fund it.

"Channel 4 can produce the programmes it does, including those for minorities, because it doesn't have to worry about whether it pays for itself or not," said Mr Shaw. "A self-supporting Channel 4 is a non-starter. That line of argument is very worrying. It is naive and doesn't take account of the nature of the whole broadcasting system at all." In the present year, the companies were paying £161 million into Channel 4.

Firms' safety failures 'kill 70'

By David Hearst

Bad management is responsible for the deaths of 70 workers a year while machinery and plant are being maintained, the Health and Safety Executive said yesterday.

The death toll is rising each year and the executive plans to "blitz" companies with visits by their inspectors, who have the power to shut factories.

An HSE survey published yesterday showed that there were 326 deaths and 10,000 serious injuries from 1980 to 1982 caused by or during maintenance, one fifth of all industrial accidents.

Flay-by-night construction contractors were the worst culprits, accounting for 72 deaths. The two most common causes of death were being crushed — by conveyors or cranes — and from falls.

Mr John Rimington, HSE director-general, said that 83 per cent of these accidents could have been avoided with reasonable precautions.

The HSE's factory inspectors have 550 inspectors to oversee 400,000 factories and an unestimated number of building sites, made 185,000 visits a year and issued 6,000 notices prohibiting work or demanding it be improved.

But at the survey's launch, the HSE was attacked by the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

Mr Doug Sanderson, national officer of UCAT, said: "If 80 per cent of accidents are breaches of the law, which the HSE police, why are not more employers prosecuted?"

Mr Rimington said that more stringent sentences were a matter for the courts, but said it was nonsense to say the HSE did not use its powers. Deadly Maintenance, £15, Stationery Office.



Lorraine Curtis, aged 21, Miss Navajo 1988, models a traditional dress and silver crown of the Navajo tribe at an exhibition of crafts at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire. Picture by Frank Martin.

Blood test 'fails to show baby link'

From Joe Joyce in Dublin

Blood tests on Miss Joanne Hayes, the woman at the centre of the "Kerry babies" case, produced no evidence that she had given birth to the infant found stabbed to death last year, a Home Office pathology test said, the Irish inquiry in Dublin yesterday.

Dr Patrick Lincoln, from London University's Department of Forensic Medicine, said that Miss Hayes's group O blood contained no indications that she had carried a foetus with group A blood, the apparent group of the murdered baby.

It was common for women who had given birth to babies of different blood groups to show indications in their own blood, but it was not a conclusive test, he said.

Dr Lincoln was called by lawyers for some of the police involved in order to cast doubt on the blood groupings reported by the Irish forensic science laboratory.

It was a possibility that tissue used to determine the murdered baby's blood group had been contaminated by bacteria which would give a distorted finding, he said, and a second test that should have been carried out was not.

Superintendent John Courtney, the senior detective on the case, in which murder charges have been dropped against Miss Hayes, denied that he had orchestrated incriminating statements signed by Miss Hayes and her family which described the baby's stabbing.

He said he believed she had given birth to twins, one in a field and one in her family house. The second baby had been murdered.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Porn' seized by Yard

POLICE yesterday seized thousands of magazines and video films under the Obscene Publications Act in 14 raids in London and 13 other towns and cities.

Three articulated lorry loads of magazines and videos were taken from the head office of Gold Star Publications in Whiteley, Surrey.

The firm's depot in Ilington, North London, was also raided, as were premises owned by the company in 12 other places including Birmingham, Leicester, Manchester and Norwich.

A Gold Star director said that the material had been earmarked for export, mainly to the United States.

Beethoven letter fetches \$55,000

A LONG-LOST letter from Beethoven to the only woman he loved was sold by Sotheby's yesterday for \$55,000. With it was sold an engraved portrait that Beethoven sent to Antonie von Brentano, an aristocrat who was married to a banker.

Beethoven met her in 1810, when he was 40. The letter sold yesterday was written in 1810.

Husband 'has no right to stay'

AN IMMIGRANT husband whose German-born wife left him and returned to West Germany has no independent right to remain here, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

Five law lords unanimously dismissed an appeal by Indian-born Amarjit Singh Sandhu, aged 44, of Martindale Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, against his proposed deportation. Mr Sandhu married his wife in Germany in March 1976.

Firms fined over divers' deaths

TWO divers died after breathing the wrong gas in a pressurised chamber, it was said at Aberdeen sheriff court yesterday. Mr David Bowman, aged 28, of South Wingfield, Derbyshire, and Mr Thomas Mackay, aged 30, of Boddam, near Peterhead, were carrying out a test at the premises of their employers, Sub Sea Offshore, in Aberdeen in February.

Sub Sea Offshore was fined £2,500 after admitting failing to check the cylinders. Air Products Ltd, of Walton on Thames, Surrey, who manufactured and supplied the cylinders, was fined £1,000 for admitting wrongly labelling them.

Inquiry into gaol incident

POLICE are investigating an incident at Long Lartin prison, Worcestershire, two weeks ago, in which a prisoner armed with a knife, tied up two women teachers and a man in the prison's education department and indecently assaulted one of the women.

Minister attacks delay in anti-drug fight

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Mr John Patten, the junior health minister, yesterday accused the World Health Organisation of acting too slowly in drawing up international guidelines on the prevention and treatment of drug abuse.

He told the world Health Assembly in Geneva that national governments must act now rather than wait until next year to draw up plans for international co-operation.

"I know the WHO is preparing a publication on strategies and guidelines for the prevention of drug abuse which will be published next year. To be frank, I do not think this is quick enough. We need action this year," he said.

"In 1984 in the UK, about £19 million was spent on police activities on drug abuse; £10.15 million on Customs. My own department has committed £12 million of central funds and more is spent by health and social services departments. He said that more could be done to share information be-

tween countries on the evaluation of different methods of treatment for drug abusers.

He also warned other countries of an emerging problem of dependence on legally prescribed minor tranquillisers.

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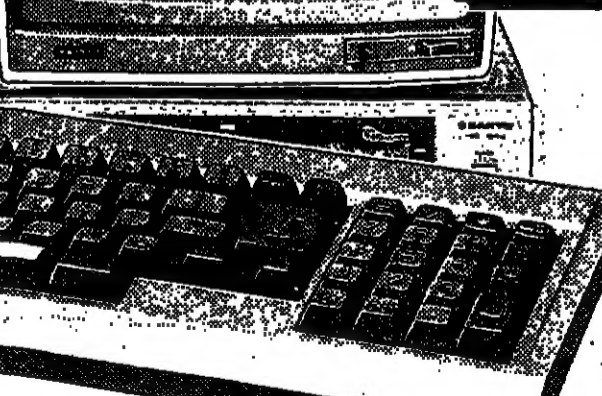
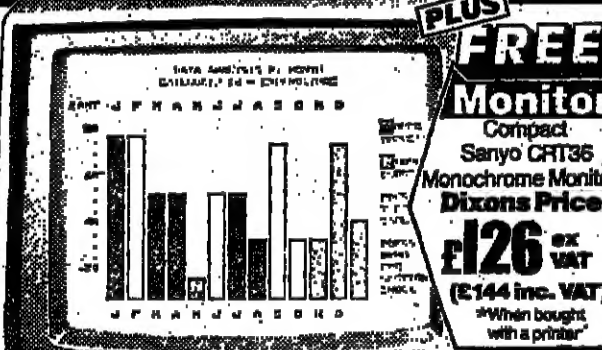
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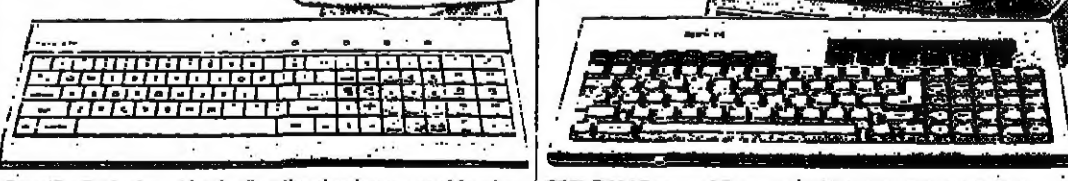
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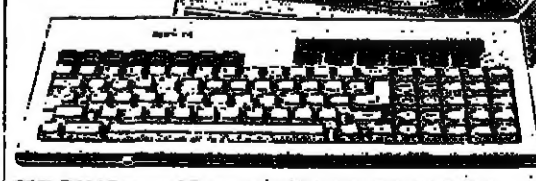


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Walk-through aquarium and tundra display will be first parts of modernisation to create 'structured experience'

London Zoo launches £21m 'theme park' rebuilding plan

By Dennis Barker

LONDON Zoo is to move closer to being a theme park with plans announced yesterday for a £21 million rebuilding programme lasting until the year 2000 and starting with a £2.4 million aquarium with a Sin, chick acrylic glazing and a North American tundra display.

By the end of the century the present scattered buildings of the zoo will be replaced by 10 animal centres with simulated natural environments which will show about two-thirds of the species now on view.

The aquarium will be built on the site of the present parrot house and will replace the one underneath Mappin Terrace, which will be redeveloped as the North American tundra exhibit.

Mr David Jones, director of zoos, said that a new aquarium in the US would cost about \$20 million to \$30 million and "we don't feel it would offer the visitor very much more in the way of a visual experience than the one we are suggesting now."

The giant and smaller tanks have been designed as a "planned experience" with two main halls. One will show a series of fish in tanks, including "touch tanks", so children may touch the fish. Visitors will go on to a larger hall which will show underwater life in more detail in medium-sized tanks.

Finally, visitors will move to a large 88,000-gallon tank, where they will stand inside a circle on glazed water, which will give them the feeling of being on the seabed. The aquarium is expected to be completed by 1988.

The North American tundra exhibition will cost £3

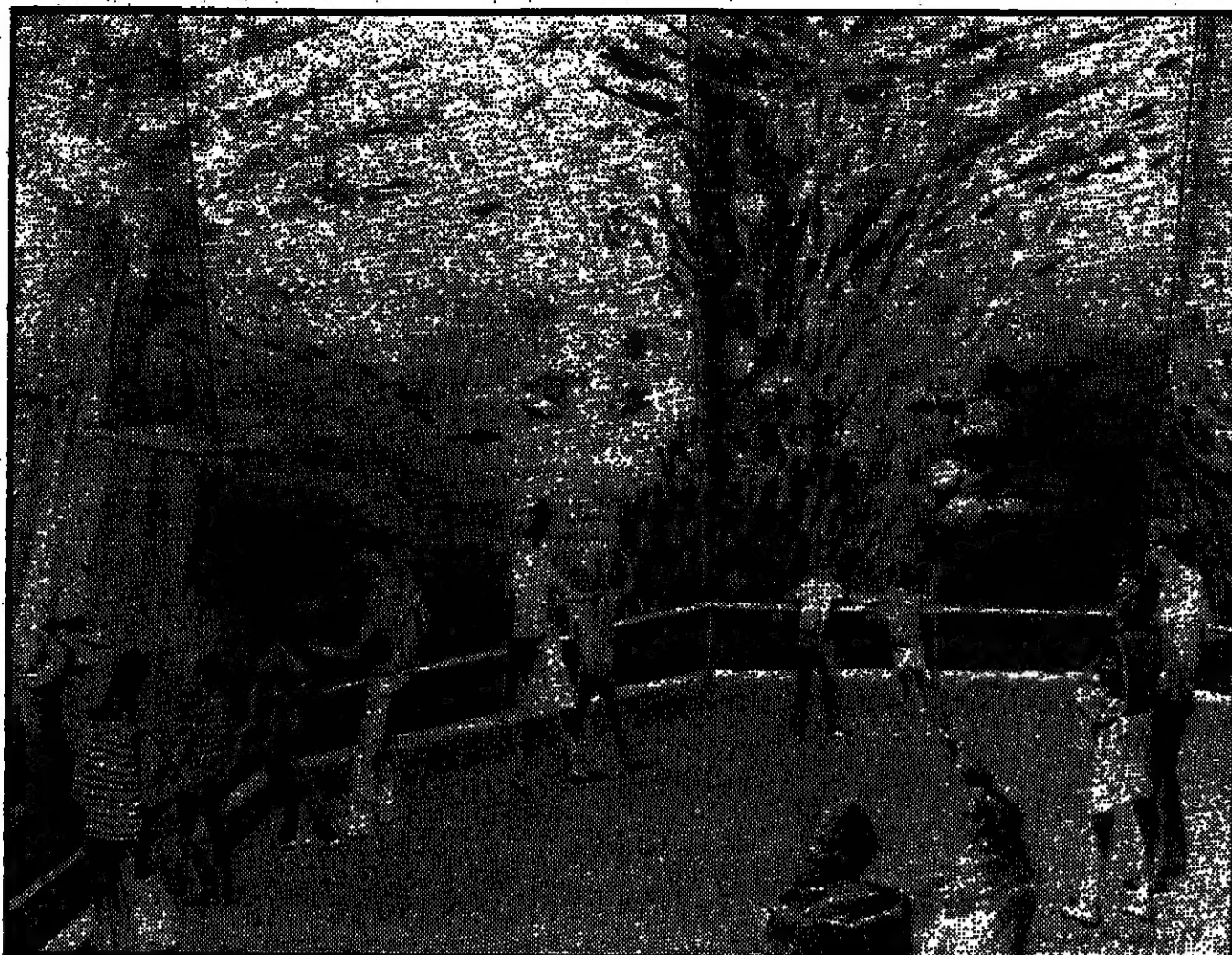
million and utilise the main structure of Mappin Terrace, which simulates mountains. The zoo improvements, considered necessary to boost the present one million a year admissions, will be helped by £8 million over three years granted by the Government last year. Of this, £6 million will go to paying off an annual deficit of £2 million a year, £1 million will be used to wipe out the zoo's overdraft, and £1 million will go towards capital development.

The Government has promised up to £750,000 a year if matched pound for pound by private sponsorship. The capital rebuilding programme will depend heavily on such sponsors and Mr Jones said yesterday that if any company or organisation wanted to sponsor the aquarium their name would be given to it.

At yesterday's launch of the proposals zoo officials said that experience elsewhere, especially in North America, suggested that a more "structured experience" was the way for zoos to go. Visitors would still be able to wander around in any way they wished.

"If anyone objects to our new plans," said Mr Jonathan Griffin, the zoo's commercial manager, "they should remember that we could run a completely Victorian zoo, having bears in pits with a pole in the middle. But then people would object to us keeping animals in conditions like that."

Some of the animals have already been moved for the redevelopment, which will not include any listed buildings, but will still have to receive planning permission. The bears have gone to Dudley Zoo in the Midlands.



UNDERSEA SCENE: An artist's impression of the large tank planned for London Zoo's new aquarium.

Jobless youth no fault of the schools, says Willis

By Andrew Mearns
Education Staff

Secondary schools could not be blamed for the high levels of youth unemployment, Mr Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said yesterday. He said some people mistakenly believed that education they provided was a big factor contributing to the problem. That was misguided, and the belief that a better school curriculum would dramatically improve young people's chances of getting jobs at a time when almost 40 per cent of the 3.2 million unemployed were under the age of 25.

"The causes of youth unemployment lie outside the schools. It is not in the schools that we will find solutions to the scandalous levels of unemployment among our young people," he said.

"A 17-year-old bristling with work-related skills may be better able to compete for a job — but only if a job is there to compete for. The job of schools goes beyond meeting the narrow requirements of employers."

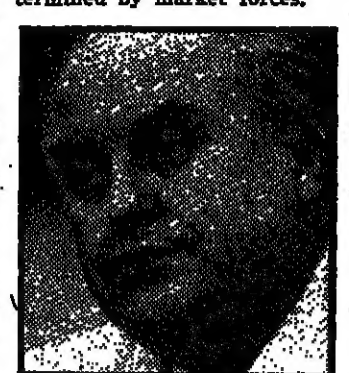
Mr Willis told a London conference of employment and education, organised by the TUC Education Alliance, that all pupils need help to understand how industrial society works. They also need basic skills and flexibility. He called for coordination of

the curriculum, examinations and teacher training, and the provision of money to make improvements possible.

● Britain no longer has the best education system in the world and has fallen sadly behind her competitors, Sir Kenneth Cornfield, president of the Institute of Directors, said yesterday.

The most serious fault was the lack of graduate engineers, said Sir Kenneth, writing in the institute's magazine, The Director.

He also suggested that Britain should look at the way it paid for its education. The shape and size of the higher education system should be determined by market forces.



Norman Willis — mistaken belief

Miner 'told of dropping concrete off bridge'

By a Correspondent

A court heard yesterday how a young miner admitted to police that he had dropped a concrete block from a bridge, killing a taxi driver as he took a working woman to his colliery during the miners' strike.

Reginald Hancock, aged 21, was alleged to have said: "I put the block on the railings and just gave it a little push and it went over. I heard a bang and glanced behind and saw the car go up the tank and then we ran like hell."

Cardiff Crown Court was told that Hancock said he had gone to the bridge on the heads of the Valleys road near Merthyr Tydfil, Mid-Glamorgan, after another miner, Russell Shankland, also 21, had phoned him and asked if they were "going to do it."

Asked by Detective Constable Robert Davies where the 46th block had come from, Hancock allegedly said: "We only found it two minutes before the convoy came. We went up and sat down. We saw a panda car go past, then the 'convoy'. Detective Constable Davies said that Hancock had told him that Shankland had dropped a 8ft concrete post, which missed the vehicles.

Detective Constable Davies said Hancock had at first denied all knowledge of the incident and admitting it to the head of South Wales CID, Detective Chief Superintendent Don Carsely, still refused to name his companion.

Hancock also alleged to have told police: "I thought I was over the middle lane. I didn't mean to do any damage — just to frighten."

Asked whether the third defendant, Anthony Williams, was present, Hancock said at first: "He's not involved. When we ran away from the bridge into the fields I jumped the gate and we saw him, and he came with us."

Earlier the court had been told that a difference of one mile per hour either way in the speed of the taxi could have resulted in a concrete block dropped from the bridge landing on the bonnet or roof of the car instead of smashing through the windscreen.

All three defendants, of Rhymney, Mid-Glamorgan, deny the murder charge. The trial continues.

Ecologists call for policy by referendum

By Michael Morris

Ecology Party candidates in the Northern Ireland district council elections on May 15 are proposing a referendum for reaching compromise and consensus in the province.

Three candidates — one standing as an independent ecologist — say they are proposing the referendum to break away from the two-party system and allow the people of Northern Ireland to vote for a range of options on their future.

Votes would be cast under a system of proportional representation, already used in the province.

The independent candidate, Mr Peter Emerson, of Belfast, argues that if the Northern Ireland voters can use proportional representation for electing people those elected can surely use it for selecting policies.

The electorate would list preferences for such options as a Northern Ireland federated to, united with or independent of London and/or Dublin.

An independent panel, the ecologists suggest, could choose a dozen options for the multiple choice referendum, which has been recently adopted by the Ecology Party and the Irish Green Alliance.

The referendum would be analysed on a weighting system, so that each preference cast would receive points in direct proportion to the number of options available.

The proposal has been put to the Northern Ireland Office, the Northern Ireland Office, and the Liberal/SDP Alliance. Mr Tony Jones, the Ecology Party secretary, said that politicians had fixed positions, making it hard to get the idea adopted, but privately they believed that compromise would have to be accepted "somewhere along the line."

Mr Emerson, a former community worker, said that a multiple choice referendum, a product of many years of thought, would be a catalyst of consensus. He added: "By listing a dozen options, in whatever order people chose, they would be able to vote in a variety of ways."

The system, the candidates say, could be used for electing a council or assembly, and for the latter to elect an executive.

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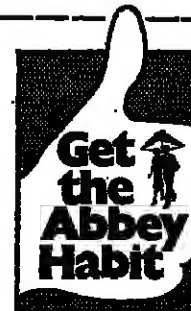
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Portugal visit is marked by Communist walkout

Reagan ends tour with affirmation of Nato's role

From Paul Keel,
in Lisbon

President Reagan ended his European tour here yesterday with a valedictory note, recalling past conflicts in Europe and reaffirming America's belief in Nato's importance for peace.

The importance to the US of Portugal's role in Nato was underlined by the President who lavished praise on its contributions as a founder member of the Alliance.

Portugal is a close and strategically important US ally, providing bases for US ships and planes on the Azores.

The clear strength of these Nato ties are in marked contrast to those in Spain, where earlier this week Mr Reagan encountered strong anti-Nato sentiment and Madrid's call for talks on reducing the number of US troops based there.

In his last big speech of the 10-day tour, delivered to the Portuguese Parliament, he recalled the devastation of past wars and spoke of the prosperity of today's European cities, now accustomed to freedom.

But a key passage blaming post-war tensions on the part of Europe he did not visit — the Eastern bloc — was heard by the 41 Portuguese Communist Party MPs who walked out as Mr Reagan was about to speak. One left a

caged white dove on his seat. The President said: "At the end of the last world war, Europe and all the world hoped that we had at last seen an end to conflict and armaments. It was not to be so. But at least we did not repeat the mistake of an earlier time, the mistake that eventually led to world war, the mistake of believing it is enough only to wish for peace."

"Instead, we accepted reality: we took seriously those who threatened to end the independence of our nations and our peoples. And we did what peoples who value their freedom must do. We joined together in a great alliance. And we returned. But we did so only so that never again would we be forced on the weight of our betrayed allies to resort to violence."

Asked how he interpreted Mr Reagan's trip — and in particular the bitterness caused by the Bibury row — the US Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, said: "He has dealt on this trip with tough, difficult and real issues, issues that are of historical profundity and enduring significance."

"His painful walk through the past in Germany and the candid emotions he brought forward in it are accompanied by the President's courageous assertion of reconciliation."

President urged to ditch Salt II pact on nuclear arsenals

By Hella Pick

President Reagan is being urged by some of his advisers to abandon the Salt II agreement, which sets limits to the strategic nuclear arsenals of the two superpowers.

This has surfaced in testimony given to the Senate Armed Services Committee by Mr Richard Perle, the Assistant Secretary of Defence, whose hawkish views on arms control have often prevailed in the Reagan Administration.

But other senior officials, concerned that any move against the Salt II provisions would only add to US-Soviet tensions and further complicate the Geneva arms negotiations, have disclosed confidential signals from the Soviet Union that Moscow intends to keep its side of the Salt II bargain.

The Russians apparently informed Washington two weeks ago that they intend to replace some of their older intercontinental strategic missiles with a new generation SS25s, but that they will not exceed the limits set by the Salt II treaty.

The issue is certain to come up next week, when the Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, meets his Soviet counterpart, Mr Gromyko, in Vienna, where the Salt II treaty was signed in 1979.

Designed to "cap" strategic nuclear arsenals, the treaty limits both superpowers to 1,200 multiple warhead missiles, of which no more than

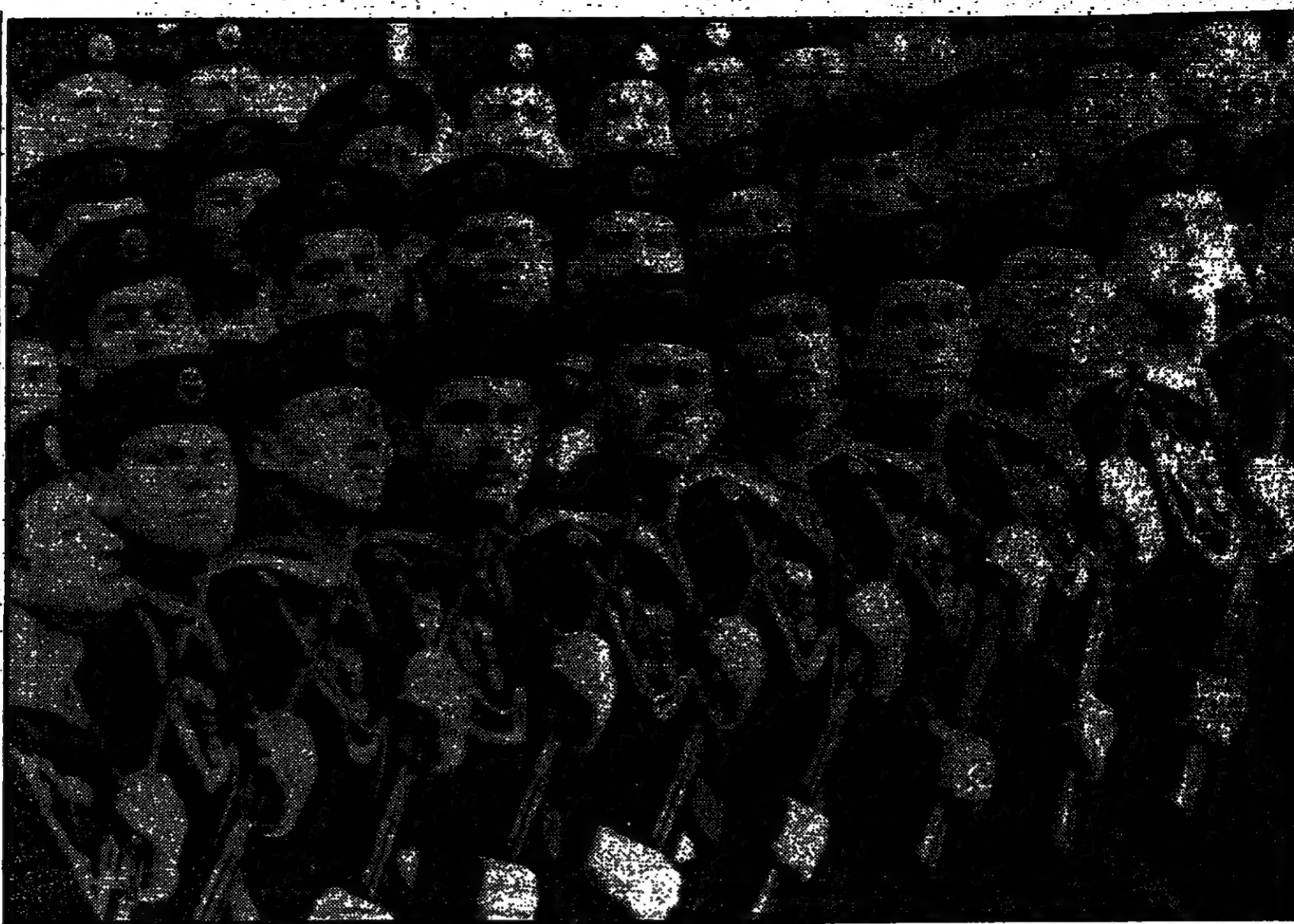
850 can be land-based. It expires at the end of this year, by when it was assumed by its negotiators, the superpowers would be far advanced into a successor treaty to reduce offensive nuclear weapons. This has not materialised.

The Salt II treaty ran into immediate congressional opposition, and it has never been submitted to the Senate for ratification. President Reagan has described the treaty as "fatally flawed", but has nonetheless maintained an understanding with the Soviet Union to abide by its provisions.

But the Administration is now faced with a dilemma. In the autumn, it plans to deploy a new Trident submarine, with 24 multiple-warhead missiles. The Salt II remains within its limits, but it would have to retire an older nuclear submarine, probably a Poseidon.

But Mr Perle said, in his congressional testimony earlier this week, that his personal view was that the US should abandon the treaty rather than retire one of its nuclear forces. He has long held the view that the Russians have themselves violated the Salt II treaty, and that the US has little interest in holding to its "flawed" provisions.

The President may have to make up his mind even before the autumn, as the Administration has to report to the Congress by June 1 on "the consequences of continuing to adhere to the Salt II treaty."



POWER ON THE MARCH: a contingent of Soviet marines passes through Red Square in yesterday's VE-Day Parade

Russia celebrates with a show of might

From Martin Walker,
in Moscow

THE DEEP roar of aged engines rumbled into Red Square from behind the Lenin Mausoleum, and then clouds of thick pungent smoke began to billow over the cobblestones.

They came into sight, looming over the slight hill, their gun barrels as full of menace now as when the German Panzers first saw them in 1941. The T-34 was probably the best tank of the war, and the Russians built more than 30,000 of them. A bare dozen had been taken out of storage, overhauled, and led the march-past of armour at the biggest military parade the Soviet capital has seen for a generation.

Behind the tanks came the other Red Army weapons that had stopped Hitler, and led the long fight back to Berlin. Then there were the Katyusha rockets whose terrifying scream was enough to demoralise troops in Angola 16 years ago, the mobile howitzers, and the Russian version of the German

SS — the gun designed to shoot down aircraft but which proved even better at stopping tanks.

With the guns came the old men and women, the veterans of the war. Some were squeezed into their wartime uniforms, marching proudly behind the faded divisional flags and banners of the Ukrainian front and the Byelorussian front — the army groups whose names and battles are fading from memory, but whose advances shaped the map of Europe.

There were civilians on the march, the munition workers and the partisans who fought the guerrilla war behind the German lines. There were women pilots and snipers, nurses and partisans, their chests so thick with medals it looked like chain mail.

More than 10,000 troops were on parade yesterday, gardeners and marines, paratroopers and sailors. There were more than 1,000 musicians in the Red Square parade band alone.

But the real display of raw power came with the tanks that followed the wartime veterans. First came a company of the new front-line battle tanks, the T-72 with its laser rangefinder and automatic gunlayer that so alarms the Nato soldiers.

Then came the rest of the hardware that makes up a

MR AVERELL Harriman, America's Second World War ambassador to Moscow, has been given a Soviet war award for "his profound personal contribution" to the Soviet-American wartime alliance. Tass said yesterday. He had been awarded the Order of the Patriotic War, first class.

modern army, the mobile anti-aircraft missiles with their built-in radars, the self-propelled artillery, the infantry personnel carriers and the anti-tank missile batteries.

Finally came the missiles, the old ones now deployed in countries around the

Middle East and the new SS-21 now in place in Czechoslovakia and East Germany, aimed at Western Europe. They were on show in Red Square for the first time.

There was a brisk efficiency about the timing of the parade. It began on the stroke of ten, as the Politburo strode out to Lenin's Tomb and the Defence Minister, Marshal Sergei Sokolov, drove in the centre of the square in his grey Zil convertible to salute the commander of the Moscow garrison, General Piotr Luchev.

Having ensured that Moscow was awash in rain last night, the air force squadron in charge of seeding rain clouds had guaranteed good weather over Red Square yesterday.

By 11 am, the parade was over, leaving only goaded throngs and a whiff of exhaust fumes. The air, as children began to clamour on the four tanks that stood guard at Red Square's corners, and the ice cream sellers and flower stalls began to do a brisk trade.

While the Politburo and

the generals gathered for the formal reception in the Kremlin, the veterans went off to the Moscow city parks for the reunions that have taken place each victory day since the war.

Rufina Gashyeva and the other women who had been in the night bomber squadron met in Gorky Park, fewer than 100 survivors of the 600 women who had flown these tiny biplanes from frontline airstrips through the war.

They met at the spot where the German tanks captured in the battles for Moscow had been put on display in that exact winter of 1941-1942. "I could never miss this reunion," she said, with her children and grandchildren around her.

The day was a strange mixture of mourning, of joy, and of a naked display of military might. The war is still a real and living presence in Moscow, where at the start of the main road that leads to Leningrad, you can see the tank-traps at the point where the Germans were stopped.

Recruitment boom for West Germany's neo-Nazis in 1984

From Anna Tomliffe
in Bonn

As former members of the Waffen-SS attended a reunion in Bavaria, the Government disclosed yesterday that the number of neo-Nazi organisations in West Germany doubled in 1984, from 16 to 34. They possessed 22,000 members, and were held responsible for 74 violent incidents.

Confidential information showed that rightwing extremists were increasingly planning large-scale terrorist attacks.

The figures are contained in the annual report of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution. West Germany's counterintelligence agency. The report was presented at a news conference yesterday by

the Minister of the Interior, Mr Friedrich Zimmermann, who said that both rightwing and leftwing extremists continued to pose a threat to democracy.

Leftwing terrorists staged a total of 148 violent attacks last year, mostly arson and bombing. Their activity was marked by growing cooperation with other groups in Europe, especially France and Belgium.

However, leftwing attacks were significantly less than in 1983, when 215 acts of violence were registered.

Some 400 members of the Leftist group Adolf Hitler and the Hitler Youth Waffen-SS divisions will today begin a three-day reunion in the Bavarian Alpine resort of Nesselwang. Several thousand

anti-fascists, trade union members, and Green Party supporters have said they will protest against the gathering tomorrow.

A similar reunion last weekend of the Waffen-SS Death's Head armoured division, which preceded President Reagan's visit to Bitburg war cemetery, passed off without incident.

Mr Walter Krieger, a 72-year-old former Waffen-SS major and organiser of the veterans' meeting, yesterday praised President Reagan for going ahead with the visit to Bitburg.

"Reagan is terrific, the best President the United States has ever had. He honoured all German soldiers, he showed we were soldiers like the others," he said.

Vatican confirms gag on Brazilian rebel friar

from George Armstrong
in Rome

The Vatican yesterday confirmed that Father Leonardo Boff, the leading Brazilian exponent of "liberation theology," has been ordered to observe a "period of obsequious silence to allow him serious reflection."

He has been told not to speak to the press, to suspend his activities as a contributor to the Revista Ecclesialistica Brasileira, and to commit no words to paper.

The Vatican would not confirm reports from the Brazilian press that the friar's interdiction was to be an effect for a year.

The 47-year-old son of Italian immigrants to Brazil was

summoned to Rome in September for a meeting lasting 44 hours with Cardinal Ruffini, who heads the curia's doctrinal office, once known as the Holy Office. Father Boff is the author of 32 books, including "The Church, Charisma and Power."

Last month, the Cardinal's office, along with the Vatican Office for Religious Orders, apparently instructed the head of the Franciscan order to advise Friar Boff that he was to remain silent for a year.

The friar's leave tomorrow for a visit to the Netherlands, a country that has been under the doctrinal office's scrutiny more than any other in the past 20 years.

Dutch courage, page 15

Double blow for prosecution in Von Bulow insulin case

From Mark Tran
in Washington

Prosecutors in the Von Bulow trial tried yesterday to salvage their case after a doctor and state witness blew a huge hole in their arguments. A former state prosecutor, Mr Stephen Famiglietti, denied allegations that he withheld information from defence lawyers at Claus von Bulow's first trial.

Mr von Bulow is standing trial in Providence, Rhode Island, for the second time for twice attempting to kill his wife, Sunny, with insulin injections during the Christmas holidays in 1979 and 1980. She is still in a coma.

Mr Famiglietti was called to respond to evidence that could lead to the dismissal of the case. This came on Wednesday from Dr Janis Gailitis, Mrs Von Bulow's personal doctor. He was the first person to examine her after her first coma on December 27, 1979. He had testified that her first coma was caused by choking on vomit rather than an insulin injection.

Dr Gailitis said that the prosecution steered his answers away from the choking explanation during a meeting before the first trial. "I just hated the whole thing. It was like a stage production."

But yesterday, Mr Famiglietti

said the doctor did not say during the interview that lack of oxygen was the single cause of the coma.

In any case, the trial has been thrown into pandemonium. The present prosecution said the charges could be dismissed if the defence can prove that information was withheld by prosecutors at the first trial.

The defence is expected to try to get the first murder charge dismissed and may even file a motion on the second count. Mr von Bulow was convicted in 1982, but the verdict was overturned on constitutional grounds unrelated to Dr Gailitis' testimony.

Peruvian MP's murder may be rebel warning

From Mike Reid,
in Lima

A newly-elected MP has been murdered in the mining town of Cerro de Pasco in the Andes, east of here, apparently by Maoist guerrillas.

Mr Luis Alberto Aguilar was shot by three masked men as he arrived for work at the town's university. He had been elected as MP for the victorious centre-left Apra party in last month's general elections.

Police sources say his killers were members of Fuka Llica, a Maoist splinter group which has been active in the area for

the past five years in alliance with the better known Shining Path guerrillas.

His killing came less than 12 hours after an assassination attempt in Lima on a well-known television presenter, although it is not clear whether this attack was politically motivated.

The guerrillas have previously avoided attacking Apra party members. If they were responsible for the MP's murder, it is a warning to the new Apra Government that it can expect no let up from the rebels when it takes office, on July 28.

Brazil dismantles legacy of military authoritarianism

From Jan Rocha
in Sao Paulo

The Brazilian Congress has approved legislation restoring presidential elections, abolishing the electoral college system introduced by the military regime, legalising the Communist Party, and giving the vote to the illiterate.

The far-reaching constitutional amendment, approved unanimously in the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, is the first major step to dismantle the authoritarian legislation left behind by the military, and to

bring Brazil nearer to full democracy.

It also restores elections for mayors who, under the military, were nominated. The elections will take place in November.

Curbs on political parties are removed, and banned parties, such as the Communist Party, which has only been legal for two of its 63 years, can now fight elections.

Another 20 million people will be added to the electoral roll, which will make a significant difference in the backward north-east.

Presidential elections, restored in a bill sent to Congress by President José Sarney, and included in the amendment, will take a new form, previously unknown in Brazil. It introduces a two-stage system, providing for a runoff if a candidate fails to get an absolute majority in the first round.

The date for the next presidential election will be decided by the constituent assembly, due to meet next year.

President Sarney has indicated that he would like a four-year mandate, which would mean elections at the end of 1988. Many opposition MPs, however, are expected to press for elections next year.

Congress is now expected to turn to tackling other authoritarian leftovers, such as the National Security Law and the Anti-Strike Law.

Illinois governor intervenes in rape case review

From Alex Brummer
in Washington

THE Republican governor of Illinois, Mr James Thompson, yesterday took the unprecedented step of joining a prison review board to hear a plea for clemency by Mr Gary Dotson, who is serving 25-50 years in jail for a rape which may have never taken place.

Mrs Catherine Crowell Webb, Mr Dotson's original accuser, sent the Illinois judicial system into turmoil in March when she recanted her 1979 charges that Mr Dotson had been responsible for a brutal rape. Mrs Webb, who has

caught America's Christianity bug, decided she could no longer live with her conscience. She alleges she faked the rape to hide an out-of-wedlock pregnancy.

Adhering to traditional legal practice, the judge who tried the original case refused to believe Mrs Webb's recantation, and sent Mr Dotson—who had been temporarily freed amid great noise from the media—back to prison. A national outcry ensued, and the convicted rapist was seen as the wronged party.

This was all too much for Governor Thompson, with his eye on the opinion polls, to

take, so he convened yesterday's hearings.

Sitting as a member of the 10-member Illinois Prison Review Board, Governor Thompson was told by Mr Dotson, who has been released on \$100,000 bail, that his "nightmare doesn't seem to end."

Since the trial judge refused to reverse the original jury verdict, both Mr Dotson and Mrs Webb have submitted to lie-detector tests which apparently show they are both telling the truth.

Mr Dotson told the governor and his colleagues: "I don't know what I could do or should have done." The

governor, for his part, explained his presence by saying: "The Illinois justice system is being examined by the world."

In evidence yesterday, Mr Dotson seemed angry at prosecutors who, during the 1979 trial, had ridiculed friends who had testified on his behalf. "I told anybody who would listen I was not guilty of the crime," he said. However, some of the evidence in the case has been a cause of controversy. While Mrs Webb has claimed that the wounds she sustained in the alleged rape were self-inflicted, she has never managed to explain the semen on her underwear.

Law in the US is still filled with examples of recanted testimony in sex crimes.

Many victims of child abuse retract testimony, and there have also been several rape cases in which the women have later recanted their testimony after lying about the role of a boyfriend in the attack. But many believe that the Dotson case is unusual.

"This is a profoundly different. This is a very special type of rape recantation testimony," which raises questions about whether there was a crime at all, says the Professor of Law at Chicago University, Mr Norval Morris.

NEWS IN BRIEF

EEC in budget consensus

THE European Commission drew closer to agreeing a working budget for the year when the Strasbourg Assembly yesterday passed a resolution built on the 1984 budgetary points already agreed by member governments.

The Assembly had rejected the budget in December because the extraordinary proposals were not in line with commitments.

The 10 governments have since agreed to provide subsidies needed to bridge the gap, estimated at about \$10 billion.

But the Assembly refused to approve a final expenditure figure, saying a "more realistic" sum should be set at a second budget meeting expected next month when farm ministers have finally fixed 1985 farm prices.

The centre-right majority in the Assembly narrowly defeated a proposal that the EEC compensate farmers for damage to its economy caused by a US trade ban. —Reuter.

Writer quits

A REAGAN-appointed subcommittee member, Mrs M. A. Hall, has resigned under public pressure after an outcry about her work on a book considered insulting to blacks. She quit her post as head of the Copyright Royalty Tribunal after discussions with administrative officials about the book. Foundations of Sand, which she claimed to have edited, though she is listed as a co-author, it accused blacks of evading "personal responsibility" and "work ethic." —Reuter.

Honduran alert

HONDURAS has accused Nicaraguan forces of crossing its border and said it sent its own troops to fight the frontier area. The Foreign Minister, Mr Edgar Par. Barrios, declined to elaborate on the type of forces involved or to say how many soldiers had been sent to the area.

Nicaraguan rebel forces said yesterday that 38 people were killed on Saturday when Nicaraguan troops crossed into Honduras in pursuit of guerrillas and clashed with them. —Reuter.

Rebels foiled

EIGHT Tamil separatist guerrillas died yesterday in an attempt to take over a television relay station at Kottavil, in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. One soldier died and several were critically injured in the defence of the station, the military announced in Colombo, writes Roland Edirisinghe.

Larnaca strike

CYPRUS AIRWAYS staff resumed strike action yesterday, two weeks after suspending similar stoppages that disrupted the island's main airport at Larnaca, airline officials said. The ground staff union has rejected proposals to end a long-standing dispute on pay and conditions. —Reuter.

Gandhi accepts

INDIA'S Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has accepted an invitation to visit Australia. The Government announced yesterday. The invitation was delivered by the Australian Foreign Minister, Mr William Hayden, who is in Delhi for talks about improving ties. —AP.

Journalist held

INDIA'S High Commissioner in Colombo, who was due to leave his post yesterday, had been arrested to remain until the release of a secured of an Indian journalist who was arrested and accused of disturbing a speech made by the President Jayawardene last month at a banquet for Mrs Thatcher. —Reuter.

Envoys blamed

NINE diplomats — from France, the Soviet Union, Poland and East Germany — were involved in the purchase of "highly classified and sensitive documents" and businessmen, parliament was told in New Delhi yesterday. —Reuter.

Big and cuddly

THE FOSSILISED jawbone of an extinct species of giant koala bear has been found in South Australia. A museum curator of fossils said that the animal was almost twice the size of the modern koala. The age of the jawbone had not yet been determined. —Reuter.

Kohl to call

THE WEST German Chancellor, Dr Kohl, will meet Mrs Thatcher for talks at Chequers on May 18, writes Patrick Keatley. They are expected to discuss details of the planning for the next EEC summit in Milan in June.

WHO WILL DECIDE YOUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE?

If you live in Inner London, the answer is not very clear.

Because the proposed abolition of the GLC leaves a question mark over the future of the Inner London Education Authority. And so over the future of London's schools and London's children.

After abolition of the GLC, the Secretary of State will have the power to abolish the ILEA as well.

Without asking Londoners.

And without a new Bill.

We think this uncertainty is bad for ILEA and bad for the Londoners who elected ILEA.

The future of the GLC will be decided in this Parliament.

We think the future of London's education should be decided now as well.

For further information please phone 633 4400.

ANC goes for Iran-style popular uprising in tactics shift

By David Rabin
THE African National Congress has called on South African blacks to prepare for a long general strike, for small armed bands of youths to turn black townships into "no-go" areas for anything less than a huge police contingent, and for black police and soldiers to quit government service.

The new "call" to the nation by the exiled nationalist movement represents an important shift of tactics towards a popular Iran-type insurrection rather than a protracted people's war. The appeal to blacks, issued by the ANC headquarters in Lusaka, is being printed on underground presses in South Africa.

The implications of the call were spelled out in an interview by a Lusaka-based leading member of the ANC's Political Military Council (PMC) the

main body in charge of carrying out underground work in South Africa, he said.

"We believe a very rare combination of revolutionary factors are maturing before our very eyes. If the liberation opposition seizes this very important moment and builds upon it, the prospects of peoples' power is within our grasp... it is not longer a dream," he said.

He stressed that the ANC does not believe that revolution is just around the corner, nor has it abandoned the idea of a long-term struggle. But it believes that events in South Africa in past months, especially the collapse of the administration in black areas and the violent resistance, raise new and different possibilities for revolutionary change.

The seeds of a rare convergence of three factors without

which a society could seldom be changed, were developing in South Africa, he said.

"Firstly, there is a regime and a ruling class in deep economic and political crisis, perhaps the deepest in its history. Secondly, there is the ferment among the people, who are showing that they want not reform but revolutionary solutions. They are demonstrating that they are ready to sacrifice their lives to bring this about and this provides a realistic foundation for transformation. Thirdly, a movement exists with an organised following to guide the build-up towards victory."

He went on: "The call contains new and far-reaching objectives which we believe are now realisable because of the astonishing speed with which the situation is changing. It remains true that the idea of a general insurrection as an immediate way forward cannot

replace the long-term perspective we have of protracted people's war. But we know that history sometimes has a funny way of departing from blueprints. We should certainly keep the lines open to other possibilities which the situation is opening up, particularly in the last three months.

"I believe the possibility of bringing about the collapse of the existing set-up in South Africa through the build-up of insurrectionary factors has never been as great as it is today."

The statement calls for people's committees to be set up as an alternative administration in black townships. It also appeals to black police and soldiers to cross to the black side and urges whites to refuse to serve as conscripts. The ANC believes that these are realistic demands. The

Second death expected to increase township tension

Student dies in custody of SA police

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

A black student leader has died in South African police custody, days after a trade unionist died of injuries apparently received while in police detention at the weekend.

Mr Sipho Mbuli, a branch organiser of the Congress of South African Students, was arrested on May 4 in the Free State provincial town of Odendaalsburg, for questioning on "charges of public violence," police announced yesterday.

While sitting in a chair at the local police station he went into convulsions, a police spokesman said. He was admitted to hospital in Welkom, a nearby mining town, and was then transferred to Bloemfontein, where he died.

A post mortem examination was conducted yesterday by a state pathologist in the presence of another retained by Mr Mbuli's family.

The trade unionist, Mr Andries Raditsela, died on Monday in Soweto's Paragwanathi hospital, where he was admitted after being found lying unconscious at the administrative offices in the East Rand township of Tsakane on Saturday night.

An executive member of the Federation of South African Trade Unions (Fosatu), he had been detained in the township on Saturday in terms of the Internal Security Act, and said all charges against him were withdrawn hours before his death.

An independent pathologist found yesterday that Mr Raditsela died of a "sub-dural (brain) haemorrhage to the right side of his head and that the injury was 'consistent with a trauma'."

The pathologist was unable to establish the cause of the injury, but said it was consistent with either a blow or a fall.

AP adds: A white soldier and four blacks, including a

A post mortem examination was performed in Soweto yesterday by both a state and a private pathologist representing the family.

The deaths and funerals of both men are certain to exacerbate the already volatile situation in black townships. Fosatu has said that "the circumstances of his death are shrouded in suspicion" and demanded that those responsible be brought to justice.

The Commissioner of Police, General Johan Coetzee, has appointed a senior police officer, Brigadier J. J. Viktor, to investigate Mr Raditsela's death as a "matter of urgency."

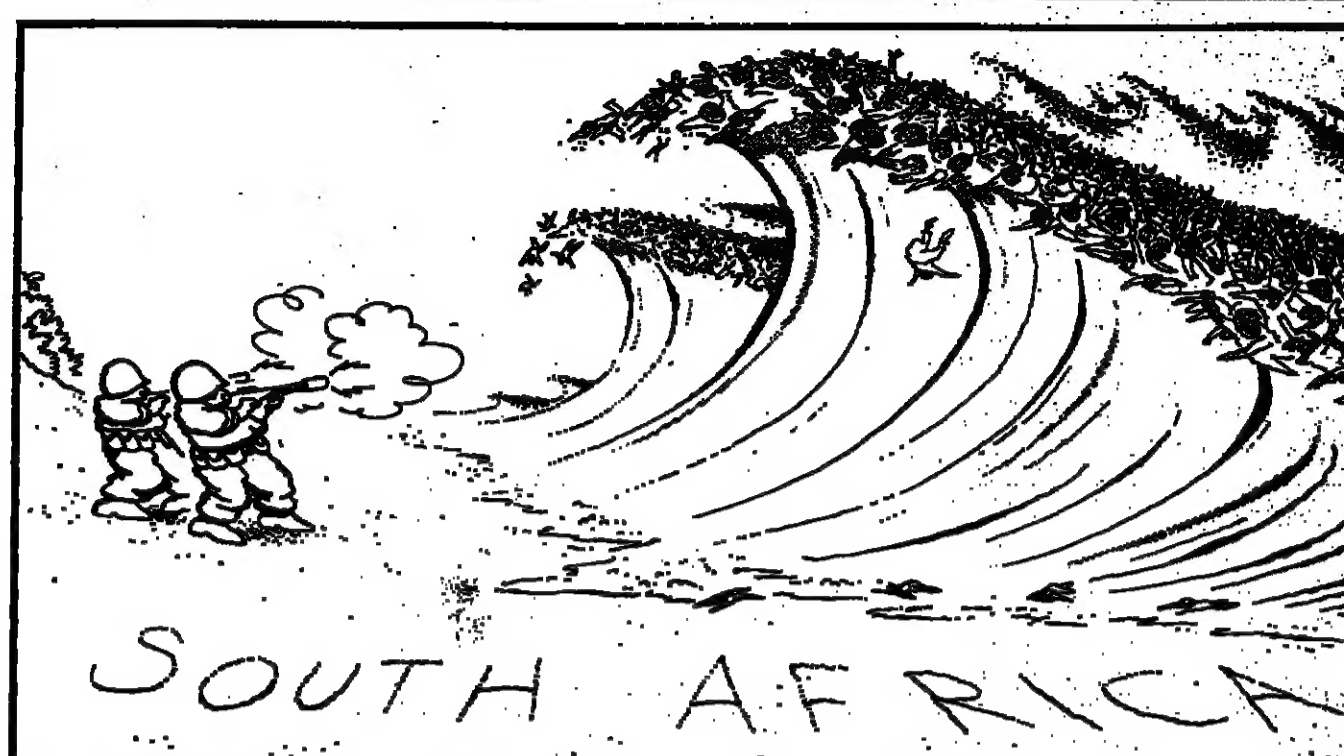
AP adds: A white soldier and four blacks, including a

Violence between members of rival anti-apartheid organisations also continued yesterday. Mr Mandla Mtweni, cultural secretary of the Azanian People's Organisation (Azapo), which espouses the Black Consciousness doctrine, suffered serious burns when a petrol bomb was thrown into the room where he was sleeping in a house east of Johannesburg.

Mr Eric Mphahlele, general secretary of Azapo, said that Mr Mtweni was in hospital with burns.

Azapo and the United Democratic Front are believed to be on the verge of striking a peace pact after weeks of at least one another's members.

Mr Mphahlele was yesterday reluctant to blame the UDF for the attacks. He said, could have been thrown "by a third party trying to jeopardise" the peace plans.



S. Africa migrant workers leave hostel after five days of fighting

From Patrick Laurence in Johannesburg

More than 1,800 migrant workers yesterday left their hostel at the East Rand township of Tsakane after five days of bloody fighting with township residents.

At least 11 people died in running clashes between hostel-based migrants and family-based residents, although unconfirmed reports put the death toll at 18.

The migrant workers left their hostel yesterday following round table talks with Tsakane residents, the Tsakane Community Council, the divisional commissioner of police, and the JPR for Springs, and nearby white-occupied town.

The conflict caused many Tsakane residents to stay away from work in Springs and neighbouring "white" towns in order to protect their homes and children against anticipated further attacks from migrant workers.

The violence was triggered on Saturday when young black militants decided to burn down a beer hall on their way back

from the funeral of an unrest victim.

Beerhalls are seen by black radicals as part of the "oppressive apartheid system" because profits obtained from the sale of liquor are used to finance the controversial government-created township councils.

The Tsakane beerhall is located next to the migrant worker hostel. The migrants objected to plans to burn it down.

According to some Tsakane residents, local police adopted a benevolently neutral attitude toward the first savage foray by the generally conservative migrant workers. But a police spokesman strongly repudiated the accusation, insisting that the police arrested all lawbreakers.

Unrest flared in several black townships yesterday, including Soweto, where two blacks were killed. One of the victims was a young girl run down by a car that went out of control under a hail of stones. A man was killed when police opened fire on a crowd

with small shot and rubber bullets, a police spokesman said.

In Duduza township, east of Johannesburg, a 19-year-old woman died inside a home set alight by rioters throwing petrol bombs, a police spokesman said. A black man was stoned to death in Thabong township outside Welkom in Orange Free State.

A white soldier also died in a head-on collision between two army trucks on riot duty east of Johannesburg. The Government says more than 200 people have been killed in nine months of unrest, but opposition groups say well over 300 have died.

In Thabong township, near Welkom in the Free State, three black town councillors opened fire on a hostile crowd, wounding three black residents. The councillor, assisted by local residents, then arrested 10 of the attackers and handed them over to police.

Police were clearly pleased with the Thabong arrest, seeing it as evidence of the long-awaited backlash by township residents against "anarchy" a

Help for Ghanaian refugees

Lagos: Ghana said it sent buses to the Nigerian border yesterday to pick up some of its citizens as Nigeria came under pressure to extend its Friday deadline for the expulsion of an estimated 700,000 illegal immigrants.

In a broadcast monitored in London, the state-controlled Accra Radio said 10 buses were sent to the Nigeria-Benin frontier to pick up at least a few hundred of the 6,000 deportees reportedly stranded without transport home.

The Organisation of African Trade Union Unity issued a statement at its Accra headquarters appealing to the Nigerian Government to extend the deadline and allow the deportees to take their belongings and money in accordance with international treaties.

The radio claimed that Nigerian border guards had seized money and belongings from deportees, leaving them with only mattresses and personal effects. It said some of the deportees were forced to leave their jobs without getting their salaries.

The Lagos Concord, an independent newspaper, said delays at the Benin border would likely force Nigeria to extend the deadline.

On Wednesday, convoys of up to 100 vehicles at a time crossed into Benin at Kaki and Igbo, most of them aiming to cross Benin and Togo to reach Ghana.

The migrants queued for several hours before being searched by Nigerian troops and customs officials to make sure they were not carrying more than 20 naira (\$17) the law allows.

In Niger, Nigeria's northern neighbour, news reports said migrants were arriving at the Niger-Nigeria border near Sokoto by the hundreds day and night. But there were no official estimates of the number leaving Nigeria, many were believed to be using footpaths to the borders without formalities.

About 300,000 aliens reportedly are from Ghana and 100,000 are from Niger. The remainder are from Togo, Chad, Cameroon and Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta). —AP.

Seven die in Indian violence

New Delhi: Troops restored order to the west Indian city of Ahmedabad yesterday after a night of riots between Hindus and Muslims in which seven people were killed and 20 injured.

An indefinite curfew was in force in the city's old quarter which was hit by violent clashes involving stabbings, shotgun blasts and barrages of acid-filled light bulbs and rocks.

The violence ended a week of calm in Gujarat State where 54 people have been killed in two months of protests against a government policy reserving jobs and college places for lower caste Hindus and other backward economic groups.

Police reinforcements broke up the rioters several times but it was nearly four hours before fighting died down.—Reuters.

New crisis as Kanak MPs quit

Noumea. The constitutional crisis deepened in New Caledonia yesterday when moderate deputies representing indigenous Kanaks walked out of the Territorial Assembly in protest at racial violence in which a youth was shot dead and 95 people were injured.

The six members of the Kanak Socialist Liberation Party said they could no longer govern with the white anti-independence party, which they blamed for the street battles between white settlers and Kanaks in the capital on Wednesday. The Kanak withdrawal leaves the assembly in the hands of the rightwing Gaullist party, which is dominated by white settlers,

'Tanaka paralysed' report as officials say he is recovering

From Robert Whyman in Tokyo

The mystery surrounding the ailing former Prime Minister Mr Tanaka, deepened yesterday, with a report that Japan's most powerful political figure was at home and in poor health.

This conflicted with a statement the same day that Mr Tanaka was in good health and steadily recovering from a cerebral infection suffered in late February. It also contradicted the general belief that he was still in hospital, and added to the uncertainty of whether he could maintain his dominance of Japan's ruling party.

Later the two men, after returning home to Niigata, were reported to have retracted their remarks.

Japan's speculation about the condition of Mr Tanaka, who led Japan in the early 1970s, reached fever pitch this week. On Sunday, his secretary said he had secretly left hospital and returned home for a few days the previous week. The fact that he had eluded the media and TV crews besieging the hospital he entered on February 27 heightened the temperature.

On Wednesday, Tokyo was awash with rumours of Mr Tanaka's death — denied by the Prime Minister, Mr Nakasone, and foreign exchange dealers predicted that the yen would weaken if Mr Tanaka died, because of the political uncertainty that would ensue.

Confirming that Mr Tanaka was suffering from a speech problem, they said that he did not reply when they spoke to him.

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TV viewers watch bird massacre

Canberra: The bird-trapper Ray Ackroyd dumped 200 dead cockatoos on the lawn of Parliament House yesterday, after horrified viewers watched him bludgeoned them to death on television.

Mr Ackroyd said that his protest was to press for a change in the law to allow the export of live birds to stop them being slaughtered by farmers.

"I think it's the most despicable act of cruelty anyone has ever had to do," he told reporters.

He was shown on television in the Australian bush crushing the birds' heads with a block of wood as they struggled under a net. The method of killing is legal as long as the birds die instantly.

Mr Ackroyd last night had his trappers' licence revoked by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, pending an investigation into his methods.

"The way he kills the birds is legal as long as he kills them once," according to a spokesman for the Animal Welfare League. "It's only if



Washington secrets provide new hope for painter 30 years on death row

From our Correspondent in Tokyo

Each dawn for the past 30 years, Sadamichi Hirasawa has wondered if he would be taken out and executed for a crime he insists he did not commit.

Now, for the first time, the galloping threat of the gallows has retreated following the transfer of the 58-year-old former painter from death row in his prison in northern Japan to a medical detention centre on Tokyo's outskirts for a check-up.

Yesterday, in his first meeting with a judge in 30 years, he said: "I hope I will be released as soon as possible."

Hirasawa's lawyers have appealed for his release, arguing that the 30-year statute of limitations for carrying out the death penalty had expired. They have also filed his 17th application for retrial.

Hirasawa, in Japan's most celebrated post-war murder case, was sentenced to death after being convicted of poisoning 16 Tokyo bank employees in 1948 and then robbing the bank.

The culprit, posing as a health official, persuaded the bank staff to swallow what he said was anti-dysentery medicine. The man got away with cash and cheques as the victims writhed in agony, and 12 died of cyanide poisoning.

Seven months later, Hirasawa, a well-known painter, was arrested and confessed to the crime. But in court he retracted the confession, which he claimed police extracted under torture.

Hirasawa's defence lawyers say the real murderer was a member of the former Imperial Japanese Army's chemical warfare unit.

Documents, recently unearthed in Washington archives show clearly that police believed the murderer was an army poison expert from a top-secret chemical warfare laboratory.

Shultz on visit to Israel

Lisbon: The US Secretary of State, Mr Shultz, begins his first visit to the Middle East in nearly two years today to explore ways to advance the US aim of direct negotiations between the Arabs and the Israelis.

He departed for Israel after accompanying President Reagan on his European tour, which ends here today.

The visit will include stops in Cairo and Amman for talks with leaders there. Mr Shultz then flies to Vienna for a meeting with the Soviet Foreign Minister, Mr Gromyko.

This Middle East trip follows two weeks of talks in the region last month by the Assistant Secretary of State, Mr Richard Murphy, that failed to achieve any breakthrough in efforts to assemble an Arab negotiating delegation acceptable to both Arabs and Israel.

King Hussein and President Mubarak have urged the United States to take a more active role in the onstalled Middle East peace process. As a start they have called for an American meeting with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

The main stumbling block has been US insistence that the PLO should not be directly represented at such talks so long as it does not specifically accept UN Security Council resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict and recognise Israel's right to exist.

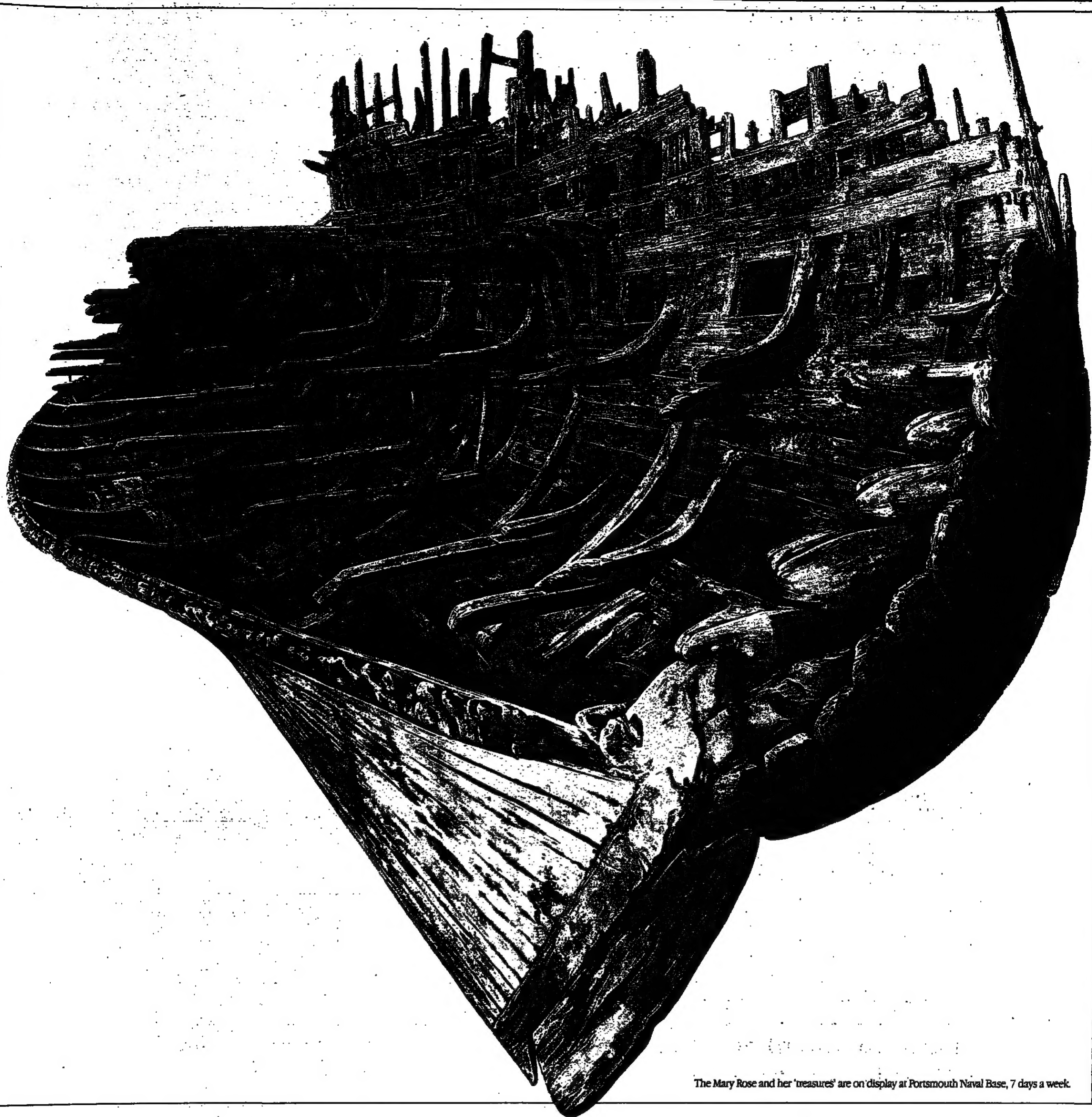
A so-called joint framework for peace signed in February by King Hussein and Mr Arafat falls short of accepting those conditions. It also calls for an international conference on the Middle East that would include the Soviet Union — a move opposed by the United States and Israel.—Reuters.

June poll in Cyprus

Nicosia: The Turkish-Cypriot Constituent Assembly decided yesterday to hold presidential elections in northern Cyprus on June 8. The community's leader, Mr Denktash, has said he will stand for re-election as president of the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, which is recognised only by Turkey. He is expected to have at least two challengers.—Reuters.

The exercise involved the simulated seizure of a ship loaded with uranium moored in Sydney harbour.

A year ago, workers on a Bass Strait oil rig claimed that they were terrorised by SAS troopers.



The Mary Rose and her 'treasures' are on display at Portsmouth Naval Base, 7 days a week.

AT LEAST SHE'LL STAY IN BETTER SHAPE OVER THE NEXT 500 YEARS.

Poor old Mary Rose has had quite a bit to contend with, these last five centuries.

When she went down, on a sparkling summer's morning in 1545, she was the jewel in the crown of Henry VIII's Navy.

But her 91 guns were no match for the ruthless onslaught of the murderous currents that flow beneath the Solent.

A deep scourpit was eroded on the port side of the hull.

The currents then relentlessly shrouded her in a thick layer of silt.

By the early eighteenth century a hard layer of shelly clay had sealed the once proud warship in her watery grave.

On October 11th 1982, a salvage operation on a scale never before attempted brought the forlorn remains of the Mary Rose to the surface.

Not only the hull, but a host of precious artefacts that tell of life in Tudor England were rescued from the muddy sea-bed. But in the process of drying them out they could easily be harmed or destroyed.

In order to preserve them, we gave the Mary Rose Trust a chemical solution called polyethylene glycol. Once these items (such as wooden bowls and leather shoes) have been soaked in this solution, they undergo a freeze-drying process that

will carefully preserve them for posterity.

At the same time, the bulk of the hull is sprayed with water to stop it from drying out, and to prevent microbiological decay.

After two years of this treatment a lengthy round-the-clock spraying of an ethylene glycol will begin, before the hull is left to dry out.

The whole process to preserve the Mary Rose will take about twelve or fifteen years to complete.

But in the extraordinary life history of the Mary Rose that's just a drop in the ocean.

YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL



Britain to back renewal of MFA, says Channon

TRADE

By Alan Travis

The Trade Minister, Mr Paul Channon, yesterday announced that the British Government will next year seek the renewal of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA), which protects EEC markets from Third World imports of textiles and clothing.

Mr Channon said during a Commons debate on the MFA that it would be quite wrong to end 10 years of protection of the British textile and clothing industries with a sudden jolt.

A further period of protection would give the British industries time to establish their international competitiveness, not only against developing countries, but also against the developed nations.

The British Government is the first of all the signatories to the MFA to indicate its position on whether the agreement should be renewed when it expires at the end of July, 1986.

The MFA is under attack from supplying countries such as Hong Kong, South Korea and India, who want it ended next year.

An independent report, the Filbertson report, has estimated that 50,000 jobs could be lost in this country by ending the MFA. But it said that the agreement raised the price of clothing in this country by about 5 per cent and argued that ending the MFA would lead to a net gain in jobs as consumers would have more money to spend on other goods.

Mr Channon acknowledged the agreement at the Bonn summit and that any renewal of the MFA would be a transitional measure.

"Some of our European Community partners may press for a prior commitment that thereafter all special restrictions on textile and clothing trade would come to an end. I think it would be premature to give such a commitment unconditionally at this stage, because it is a matter that will have to be negotiated in the coming round of talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade," he said.

He said that there would have to be other more liberal arrangements than the present ones and some quotas should be dispensed with.

"I accept indications that the restrictions have borne especially heavily on the price of children's clothes, and we shall be seeking to liberalise these where administratively practical."

The announcement was greeted with cheers and relief by many of the MPs in the chamber. More than 30 members, many of them from Yorkshire, Humberside and the East Midlands, where the textile, clothing and knitwear industries are concentrated, had put down their names to speak in the debate.

It is sadly typical of the Transport Secretary that, having flouted the law on the

Powell measure looks doomed

By Colin Brown

VIRTUALLY the last chance of Mr Enoch Powell's private bill to ban experiments on embryos reaching the statute book disappeared yesterday with the defeat of Miss Janet Fookes, the Tory MP for Plymouth Drake, to drop her own bill in the Commons today.

Miss Fookes said that she had not been approached by Mr Powell's supporters but although she supported his bill she would not make way for it by removing from the list in the Commons her own measure to outlaw kerb-crawling.

The bill's supporters yesterday tabled a Commons motion supported by 108 MPs, including the Liberal chief whip, Mr Alan Beith, urging the Government to enable the remaining stages of the bill to be given the necessary time to pass through the Commons.

The Leader of the House, Mr John Biffen, who also supports the bill, has made it clear, along with the Prime Minister, that this would be a breach with convention.

GLC bill—new defeat

HOUSE OF LORDS

By our Political Staff

THE HOUSE OF LORDS last night rejected an appeal by the Environment Minister, Lord Elton, and inflicted a third embarrassing defeat on the Government on the Local Government Bill, which will abolish the Greater London Council and the six metropolitan county councils.

Peers rejected plans to hand waste disposal functions over to the successor borough and district councils and by 170 to 166 (majority 4) scrapped a whole clause from the bill.

Conservative backbencher, the Earl of Cranbrook, suggested non-elected city-wide authorities for London and the counties should deal with commercial and hazardous waste disposal.

The defeat is yet another serious blow to the Govern-

ment, which has been marshalling supporters this week in a bid to avoid further embarrassments over the bill. Without a vote, peers agreed to the establishment of a new body — the London Waste Disposal Authority — to take over the functions.

The Lords have already thrown out plans to hand over the highway and nature conservancy functions to the lower tier authorities — in favour of new strategic bodies to run the services.

Last night peers from all sides of the House voiced fears over the handling of waste in the capital and the large provincial cities, after abolition. There was concern that the government proposals involved voluntary arrangements, rather than compulsory powers.

Lord Cranbrook, chairman of a Lords Select Committee on science and technology, which rejected the Government plans over waste, said: "This is essentially a func-

tion of local government, and should not be split up between the councils." Lord Elton said: "We are not in the business of creating a lesser form of the authorities. We are now abolishing the GLC and the MCCs, which this House has already decided."

Mr John Gunnell, the leader of West Yorkshire Council and spokesman for the metropolitan councils, said after the vote: "It is another good result fitting into the pattern in which the Lords usually want to retain the services of the Metropolitan Counties and county-wide services."

This vote was a direct result of the select committee's findings, which led to Greater London Council and West Yorkshire and London out of the bill.

Ministers do not regard these as overriding issues. They are seen as a means of ensuring that the Government will face serious problems with the emasculated bill.



Lord Elton: appeal failed to win the day.

Ridley drops controversial Civil Aviation Bill

AIRPORTS

By Alan Travis

The Transport Secretary, Mr Nicholas Ridley, faced renewed embarrassment last night when he announced his decision to drop the controversial civil aviation bill, through a writ-

ten Commons answer.

The bill was to give the Government power to restrict air traffic movements at Heathrow to 275,000 a year.

Mr Ridley had already been forced to delay debate on the bill when more than 100 Conservative MPs staged a rebellion last November in the belief that it would pre-empt a

decision on Stansted airport.

In a written reply to Mr Fergus Montgomery, the Conservative MP for Alton, Mr Ridley said that Heathrow in time for a Civil Aviation Bill to complete all

the Stansted and the fifth transport spokesman, protested

in the Commons that the man-

ner of the announcement was a gross discourtesy to the Commons. The committee exam-

ining the bill was to meet next week and had not yet been told of the decision to drop the bill. Mr Snape accused Mr Ridley of attempting to sneak through decisions by using

written Commons answers.

NEXT WEEK

Move to amend Rent Act

By Colin Brown

MR MICHAEL Mates, a senior Conservative backbencher, will be attempting to change the law on the right of householders to claim back their property from their tenants when they return from abroad with a private bill in the Commons on Tuesday.

The bill to amend the Rent Act after a case in his Hampshire East constituency is likely to secure all-party backing and should reach the statute book, provided that there are no attempts to block it. It will overturn a judgment in the House of Lords denying a family the right to take over their house from tenants who took their letting from an agency rather than direct from the family.

Another Private Member's Bill is likely to cause a stir on Wednesday because it will be accompanied by a mass lobby of Parliament by young people. The bill, by Liberal MP, Mr



Mr Richard Ottaway

Clement Freud, is one of a series of measures by the Liberals on Youth policy which include votes for 16-year-olds. Mr Freud's measure will help the young handicapped.

Liberal peers have chosen for their debate on Wednesday the topical subject of postal ballots for trade union elections. So far, the independent peer Lord (Frank) Chapple has not put his name down to speak.

The controversy over the National Council for Civil Liberties is likely to dominate the debate on civil liberties initiated on Monday by the Tory backbencher, Mr Richard Ottaway (Nottingham N). The Liberal spokesman, Mr Alex Carlile, decided not to resign from the council because he believes it is more important to stay to get rid of the block vote within the NCCL and to write into its constitution the need to include in British law the European Convention on Human Rights.

The recently formed Commons all-party race relations group, chaired by Clare Short, the Labour MP for Ladywood, may choose to raise the criticism it made yesterday of the Home Office rules on immigration marriage. They protested that many genuine couples were being separated by the rules.

PM's QUESTIONS

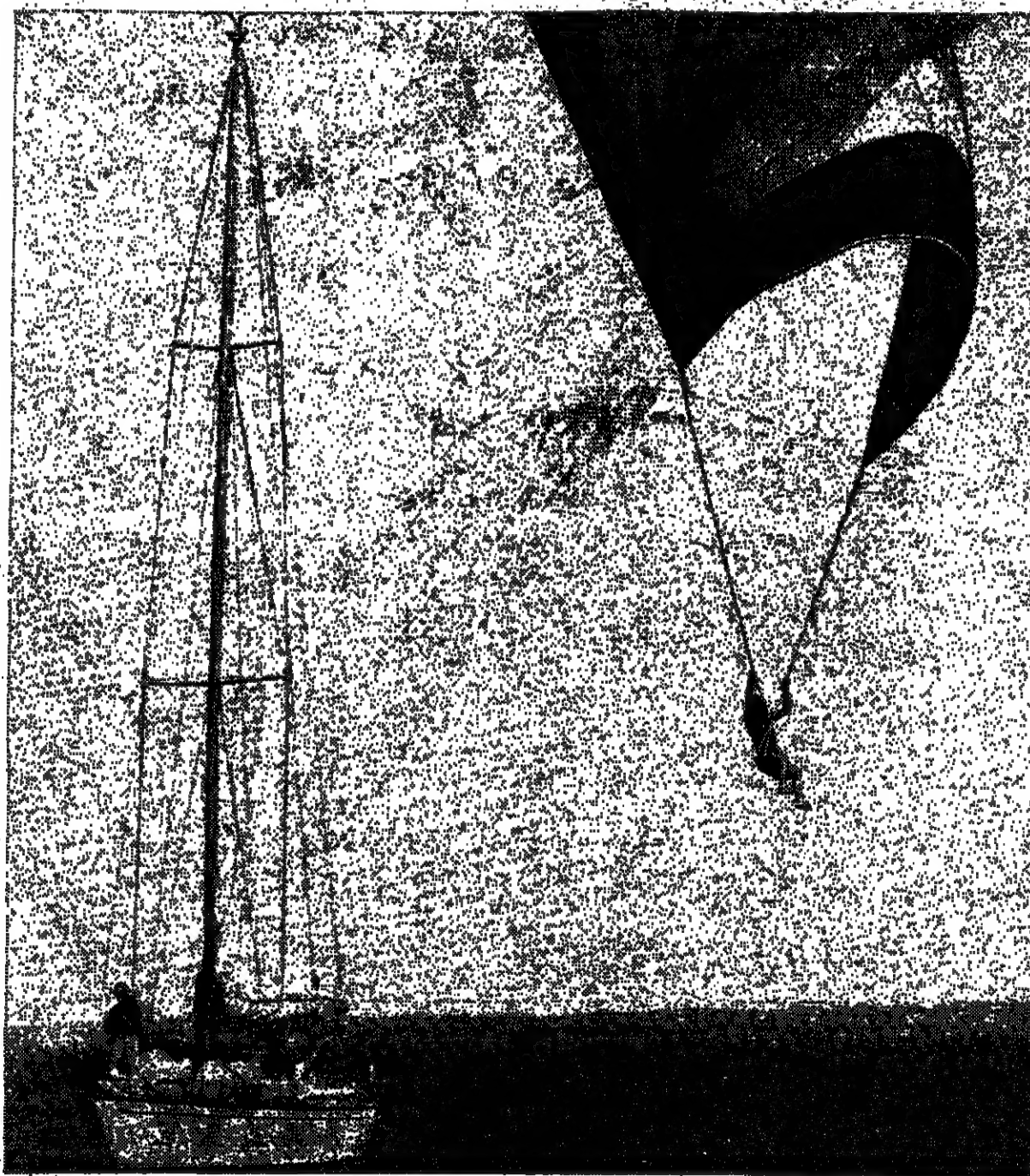
Jobs: only answer

THE Prime Minister insisted in the Commons yesterday that there was "no other answer" to Britain's unemployment problem than the creation of more small businesses.

Over-manning was not the answer to the problem. Mrs Thatcher declared in response to Question time criticism from Labour's Mr Ray Powell (Gomere).

Tory MPs were as anxious as any others to increase the number of jobs, said Mrs Thatcher. But she added: "They do not come merely by sharing out the number of jobs among more people, because that of course would mean lowering the wage as one increased the number of employed. I do not believe that over-manning is the answer to our problems."

The answer came from "increasing the numbers of small businesses and thereby increasing the numbers of businesses that can expand and take on more people." To Labour protests, she added: "There is no other answer in the long run to getting more jobs."



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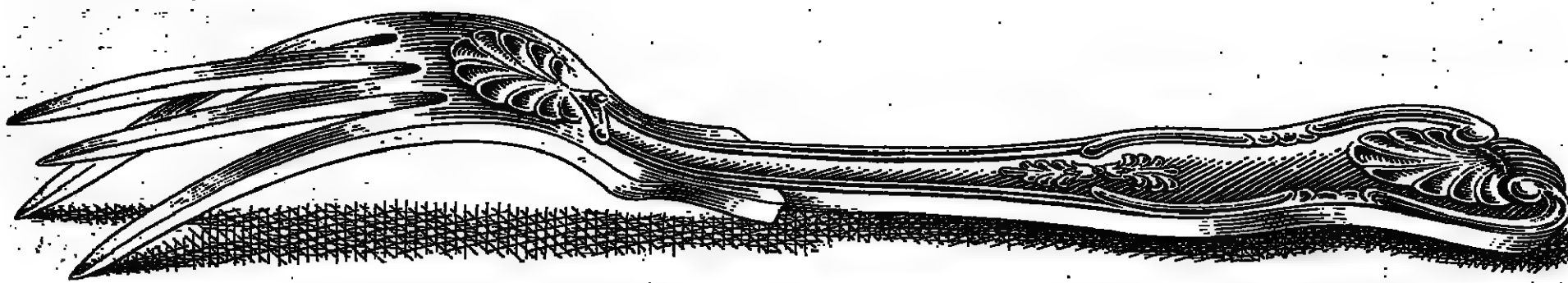
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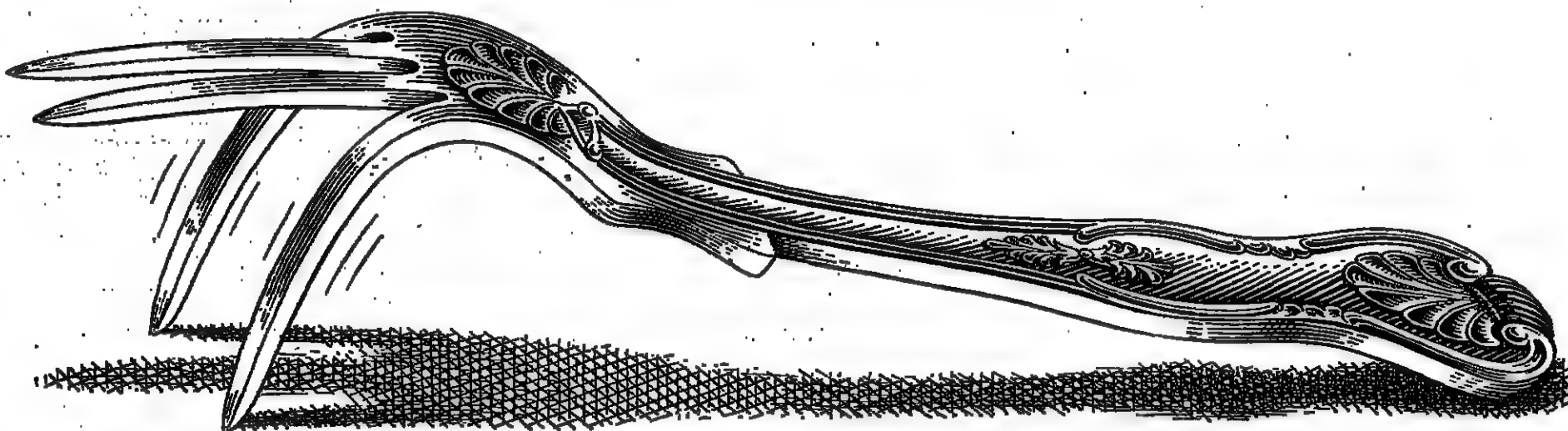
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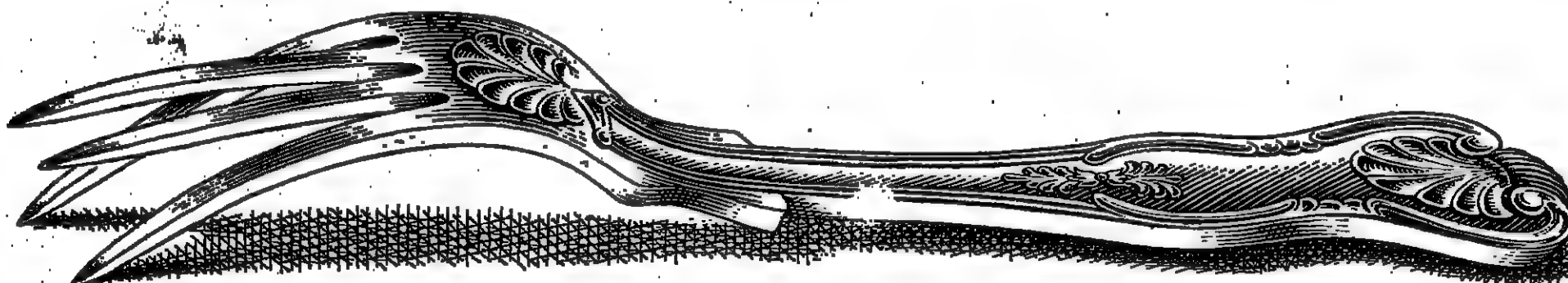
Anton Mosimann on



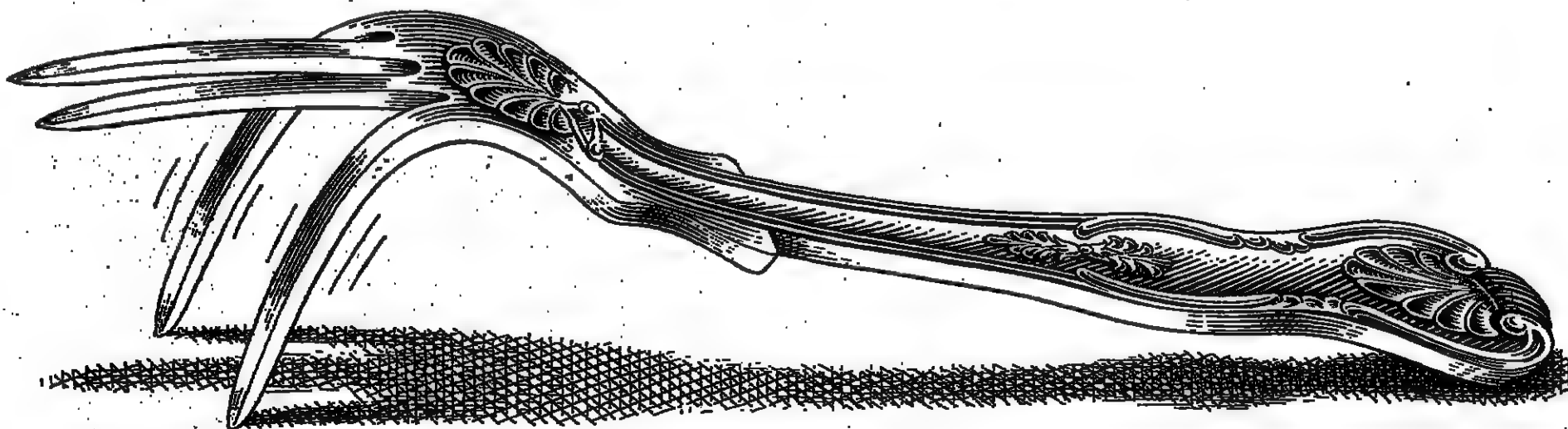
eating well



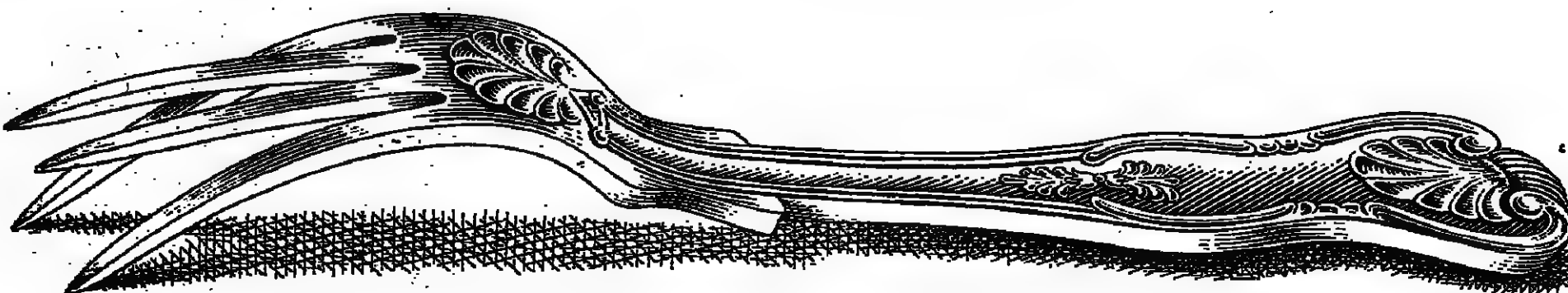
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THE OBSERVER

AUBERON WAUGH

on the Prince of Wales:

"The intense interest shown in the question of whether or not the Prince of Wales should attend Mass with the Pope... can be explained only by a great unspoken anxiety in the country: that after his abandonment of hunting and shooting, his adoption of a vegetarian way of life and his new interest in choral singing, the Prince of Wales is about to amaze us all by becoming a Catholic."

DANIEL FARSON

on Francis Bacon:

"...because his face is unfamiliar, it is possible to drink with him in a pub where he is unknown that he was offered a job decorating a house when someone heard he was a painter."

PATRICK MARNHAM

on the Vatican:

"For the Vatican, the last news story was the life and death of Jesus Christ. The next news story will be Armageddon."

PETER ACKROYD

on 'The Cotton Club':

"The script stays on much the same level, combining juvenility and banality: 'You move me, Richard Gere announces to a lady, 'in unusual places.' Perhaps he meant his socks."

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NOW EMPIRE 1 **SLINGTON**

AND ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Michael Billington
reports from the
Brighton Festival

King of the clowns

THEY ARE sending in the clowns at this year's Brighton Festival. The influence of commedia dell'arte is the theme. And while this produces some interesting exhibitions (such as one of theatrical masks made by the Sartori Family), it raises the whole question of whether the commedia tradition ever took root in Britain and also leads to some convenient shoe-horning. Even Alfred Jerry's 1899 play *Ubu Enchained* has been re-christened *Ubu and the Clowns* in the Actors Touring Company version at the Gardner Centre; and while the production has a far-fetched grotesquerie, it is rather more than a simple clown-show. In *Ubu Roi* Jerry satirised totalitarian rapacity in this sequel his target is bourgeois freedom. Individualism, he suggests, leads to conformity: free will, in consequence, can only be exercised through slavery. So we see Pa and Ma Ubu on the run from Poland arriving in the land of the free (France in the original, hints of America here) where the monster-hunters rejoice in the role of footman-polisher, lackey and whipped slave.

The problem is that once the population see the benefits of subservience (for Pa Ubu colour telly and 12 meals a day after he is slapped in the face) they are loath to emulate his example. The climax becomes a lunatic rush towards the galleys of Solomon the Turk with the whole cast dragging along their iron ball and chain in an effort to beat Pa Ubu in the race to slavery.

The concept of freedom is certainly worth intelligent scrutiny. But Jerry's play, written during the licensed gaiety of the Belle Epoque, seems to me to produce of the very thing it is attacking: a smug bourgeois society allows itself the luxury of a little anarchic subversion. I doubt whether Ubu's cry of "Slavery, the only freedom" would have gone down very well with a Russian peasant or an American black.

Jerry also never gets far beyond naive schoolboy paradox: once he has launched the idea that captivity is liberty and slavery is dominance he has nothing much more to tell us. What saves the play from banality is the wildness of his imagination and his ability to create a Lewis Carroll-world where parade-ground squaddies carry out the reverse of every order, and where defendants in the dock ardently crave punishment.

John Retallack's production (based on the Simon Watson translation) matches this with its own insane inventiveness, not least in a very funny ballroom scene where Strauss waltzes are executed on an excrement-strewn floor and where a grotesque guest-list is read out to a cascade of balloons.

The production is pitched halfway between European surrealism and English pantomime with Chris Barnes, marble-eyed and wind-breaking, magnificently revelling in Pa Ubu and Alison Peckles, constantly fashing per purple drawers, a suitably disgusting mate.

Paddy Fletcher as a judge, fiscally donning the black cap for execution, also evokes chilling memories for me of once seeing a Lord Chief Justice do the same thing with due sobriety. The show deserves bigger audiences than it got at the Gardner Centre; but it doesn't persuade me that Jerry's play is more than an obscene doodle in the margins of bourgeois society.



Donald Wintersgill on how John Ruskin's treasures returned to Sheffield

For Ruskin and St George

ONE of John Ruskin's visionary schemes for education and reform through art has miraculously survived and been reborn in Sheffield, where it was founded. It is the Museum of St George, owned by the Guild of St George, both founded by him to foster the "liberal education of the artisan."

The museum has been rehoused in a former wine lodge. This is appropriate, because Ruskin's father, from whom he inherited a fortune, was a wine merchant. The building is small and can show only a small part of the collection at one time but its first exhibition faithfully follows Ruskin's ideas in looking at form, colour, and structure. The exhibits are accompanied by passages of commentary from Ruskin's writings.

The museum was to be an inspiration. To it he gave illuminated

manuscripts, minerals, copies of Old Master pictures, coins, photographs, plaster casts of Gothic ornament, paintings commissioned by him to illustrate his theories of beauty, and a few of his own original works.

Why Sheffield for the museum? The city was industrialised and ugly, but surrounded by wonderful countryside; Ruskin admired the skills of the metal workers; and one of his disciples, Henry Swan, lived there.

The museum was set up first in a little house at Walkley, outside the city, which was then starved of culture and of visual joys. People flocked to it from far and wide. Sheffield Council gave the museum another, bigger home in 1890: part of a large house, Meersbrook Hall in the city. This was more accessible, and 61,000 people visited it in 1891-2.

And so matters stood until the 1950s. But the museum belonged to the Guild and was only leased to the council. And in the 1950s Ruskin's reputation was at a low ebb: he was too Victorian. The museum was closed. Major items were put on show in the Sheffield City Art Galleries and the rest into store, although a couple of exhibitions were sent on tour.

Most of the collection was taken to Reading University and, again, much of it was put into store; the best was kept on show in Sheffield because Reading was unable to insure it. Ruskin's dream almost died.

In 1975 the Guild of St George sold the collection's Madonna and Child by Andrea del Verrocchio, to the National Gallery of Scotland for £360,000, to the distress of many people. Ruskin would have poured forth all his petulant sarcasm, his

elegant invective, against the sale. The whole collection, in a sense, revolved round the painting. The Guild did however put the money to some good use in promoting its work.

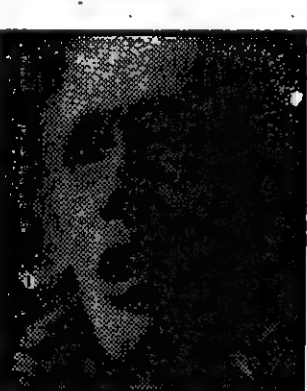
To the rescue of the Museum of St George came the modern equivalents of private patrons: the Museums and Galleries Commission, the Area Museum and Art Gallery Service for Yorkshire and Humberside, the Crafts Council, and Sheffield City Council. The Guild of St George also helped. Ruskin, who gave away his inherited fortune, would at least have been pleased at that.

The building, in Norfolk Street in the centre of the city, had been adorned with ironwork by Giuseppe Lind and carved by David Kindersley and his associates.

GLASGOW

Gerald Lerner

Orlando



Stephen Varcoe in Orlando.

WITH so many of the Glasgow audience alienated by Scottish opera's Don Giovanni, the production of *Orlando* was rather late to take offence, considering how long the company has been exhibiting menopausal symptoms — Christopher Fettes' production of *Orlando* is a timely corrective. It is by no means conventional but it is also intelligent, thoroughly professional and remarkably elegant to the eye.

The elegance is largely a matter of Antony McDonald's designs, of course — the Hogarth in the costumes and the Nash in the handsome hairstrapped set. But it is also in just about every movement on the stage. The blind Eros figure never stumbles behind his graceful white stick, the progress of Orlando's madness is represented in ballet sequences with wit and choreographed by Ian Spink. In Bedlam, whither Orlando is banished in the last act, nurses join the patients in therapeutic dances.

The curious exception is that Lillian Watson, one of the prettiest of British opera singers, is given an ugly limp. Happily her singing as the peasant girl Dorinda, betrayed by no corresponding figurement. Indeed, under the inspired direction of Richard Hickox the musical performance is distinguished in general.

As Orlando, James Bowman is in exceptionally good voice and suffers only a few breathing problems in a testing and beautifully also part. Timothy Wilson, as his effective young rival Medorus has rather more difficulty in a higher range: the part might be more suitable for a female alto but it would have carried the same psychological conviction in that case. Eiddwen Harrihy as Angelica is as secure and as stylish as ever in these Handelian roles.

The magician figure, Zoroastro, stands apart from the rest. He is authoritatively represented here by Stephen Varcoe, whose appearance in this role has a strange resemblance to that of John Cox, artistic director

of Scottish opera. "As guardian of your glory I have been watching over your madness," he sings, "and shall restore you to reason." Let's hope so.

RFH/RADIO 3

Hugo Cole

St Louis SO/ Stern

THE three-week American festival opened quietly with one of the more restrained Bernstein works. *Fascimile* is drawn from a ballet written in 1946 after *Peter Pan* and well before *West Side Story* — in which Bernstein's love for Copland is reflected in a quietly ruminative prologue and epilogue with clear wide-eyed harmonies, chaste, lyrical, and with lively syncopations in the central section.

Bernstein's best scores have more red blood in them, but *Fascimile* won admiration for total command of the medium and for an ease of manner and movement which many more profound composers might envy.

There was ease of manner too in Isaac Stern's Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, which started in routine manner but warmed up to a performance full of interest.

His response to the woodwind's theme in the first movement was conditioned by their version of it, the cadenza was thrown off almost casually, but the coda to the first movement taken with great ardour.

Only a great violinist can handle the familiar theme of the slow movement so simply and naturally yet so expressively. The last went at a true vivace, yet Stern found plenty of room for expression and nuance.

The orchestra had so far been on their best behaviour — certainly nothing to object to — but no revelations of character either. In Dvorak's Eighth Symphony, the St Louis players revealed warm and romantic souls. Leonard Stern's very slow speed for the opening cells theme made me fear that we were in for an over-elastic performance, but there were few indulgences thereafter, though plenty of flexibility in the handling of the lyrical tunes.

The orchestra is not of overwhelming power or particularly lustrous tone, but the ensemble is always well-balanced, performances alert and gives the impression of genuine musical intelligence, with good solo playing all round with a very nice violin solo from the leader in the second movement.

The programme, however, contains neither individual players nor leader — a singularly mean trick to play on a visiting orchestra at the start of a festival.

Val Arnold-Forster on the disdain of dons and dames

An alpha plus put-down

FOR THE ultimate put-down, there's nothing like an elderly Oxford don. Take, for instance, that pair of eminent lady scientists in *The Thatcher*, the Phenomenon (Radio 4, Sunday and Monday). They were considering, with mild academic disdain, a previous pupil, one Margaret Roberts.

Nobel Prize-winner Dorothy Hodgkin: "You could rely on her producing a sensible, well-read essay, but there was always something that some people had that she hadn't got." Dame Janet Vaughan: "A perfectly good second-class chemist — a Beta chemist — she wasn't an interesting person, except as a Conservative."

I would never, if I had anything to say, put on her hat (and gloves) so that she, rather than some underling, could buy Dennis's breakfast bacon.

No sense of humour, of course. Even her admirer, Reagan, told of her upstaging one of his jokes, and an old friend "wouldn't make a joke in her presence that might possibly reflect on her."

Mrs Castle saw her as "in love with power, success and with herself," and a predecessor in university politics remembered her well, starting with her appearance: "I

remember her as a brown girl, with an attractive head of brown hair." However, Mrs Mary Baker, a Tory Lady Rampant, thought that Mrs Thatcher was "obviously" the best role-model for women today in an entertaining little exchange in *Any Questions?* (Radio 4, Fridays & Saturdays). Jim Prior thought otherwise, and Roy Hattersley and Oliver Wakelin didn't believe in role-models anyway. Mrs Baker regretted that, with the advent of large mixed schools, we're losing headmistresses... "examples of senior, mature, intelligent and powerful women."

No one mentioned the Queen; and presumably Tory ladies can be divided into those who'd choose Mrs T or HM as role-model. On the *Way We Were* (Radio 4, Wednesday) the Queen told — or, rather, read — a pleasant little account of herself and her sister wandering among the crowds on VE Day. It wasn't unlike all those other tales of relief, happiness and jolly encounters on VE Day, but made distinctively real by the domestic reference to Buckingham Palace. "We sent a message into the house."

And the victims of what you might call non-consensual abuse by friends, neighbours, brothers, fathers can start much earlier — it sounded almost like a Dutch auction as the girls told their stories, 10, eight, six, four, two, one, the last child of two had gonorrhoea. The mind reels, not just at the deeds, but at the years of disturbance and sexual disorientation that might lie ahead.

Willis Hall's *The Bright Side* (CA) is also, I suspect, indirectly about crime, though just why Lionel Bright is doing it or years in an open prison was either not made clear or failed to wake me. Anyway, the series is plainly going to be more about how his wife, played by the saucer-eyed innocent Paula Wilcox, copes with being the criminal equivalent of grass widow.

Bright (Paul Copley) has the rough male companionship of the sick to cheer him, plus how his wife, played by the saucer-eyed innocent Paula Wilcox, copes with being the criminal equivalent of grass widow. Bright (Paul Copley) has the rough male companionship of the sick to cheer him, plus how his wife, played by the saucer-eyed innocent Paula Wilcox, copes with being the criminal equivalent of grass widow.

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W. J. Weatherby in New York describes how two uncompromising dramas, about the AIDS epidemic, have succeeded where traditional Broadway fare has failed

The end of the heart's immunity

Ben Vereen and Leilani Jones in *Grind* (left); Brad Davis and D. W. Moffett in *The Normal Heart* (right).

THE AIDS epidemic is now the topic of two outstanding and completely different dramas in New York, and both critics and theatre-goers have so far responded in a way that recognises their importance.

At the same time that Larry Kramer's fiercely polemical *The Normal Heart* was opening at the Public Theatre, William M. Hoffman's much more intimate *As Is* was transferring from a brief run at off-Broadway's Circle Rep to a mainstream Broadway theatre, a rare commercial tribute to such an uncompromising controversial drama.

As Is concerns a young homosexual suffering from AIDS—Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome—who is deserted by his relatives but not by his ex-lover. Short, almost documentary scenes quickly evoke the risks of casual sex encounters in bars, houses, bars and cheap hotels, and then the pay-off comes with the fatal diagnosis, desperate therapy sessions and eventually the final hospital seclusion.

It sounds forbidding, but the relationship between the con-

demned victim and his ex-lover, who might have been expected to turn his back but didn't, is touching, tender and even funny, and very cleverly played by Jonathan Hogan and Jonathan Hadary. AIDS becomes the key to revealing the meaning of loyalty and even love, the difference between family and friends, and how fear can blind us to the essentials of life.

Kramer's *The Normal Heart* is at the opposite theatrical extreme, putting AIDS centre stage in the way only a frankly polemical drama can do and keeping it there right to the end. It is an angry attack on pretty well everything, notably government, medical and media establishments for their inadequate response, especially in the early days of the epidemic. "There's not a good word to be said about anyone's behaviour in the whole mess," states one character, obviously summing up the author's own opinion.

Being a New York play, it is particularly hard on the local Manhattan media. When *The New York Times* published a largely favourable review by

its often devastating drama critic, Frank Rich, the paper added a postscript defending itself against the play's charges that it had suppressed news about AIDS, claiming that its substantial story on July 3, 1981, made the paper "one of the first—if not the first—national news media to alert the public to the scientific recognition and spread of the disease." New York's Mayor Koch, who is also criticised in the play, said he hadn't seen it but hoped it was as good as *As Is*, which was "superb."

The Normal Heart's accusations, expressed with a mounting rage that occasionally verges on hysteria, are conveyed through a homosexual activist played with powerful conviction by Brad Davis. Mr Kramer himself was a founder of the Gay Men's Health Crisis organisation and broke away after disputes about political tactics. All the disputes are dramatised through his activist hero. Most important probably is his appeal to cut down on sexual activity rather than risk getting AIDS, which is eloquently opposed on the

grounds that it negates the hard-fought battles for the freedom to practise homosexual love openly.

"AIDS is not a civil rights issue but a contagion issue," argues Mr Kramer's hero, who finds that his old battles against prejudice were easy compared with his struggle against the timidity of his peers. He falls in love with a New York Times reporter who is depicted as a liberal unsure how far to come out of the closet (the Times critic described him as a "weakling") but found him as the most complex and moving character. Their love scenes are rather lifeless, but their relationship does dramatise Mr Kramer's main argument more subtly than the other characters who tend to be caricatures or mere symbols.

With a striking set that includes a list of the dead American victims state by state, *The Normal Heart* is often strident and repetitious, more editorial than drama, but its high seriousness and urgency, underlined by frightening glimpses of AIDS at work,

overcome any theatrical shortcomings and make it in its very different way as effective as the much more personal and appealing *As Is*.

With *Blondie*, *Harley*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* and *Pack of Lies*, Hoffman's play is on the short list for a Tony award for best play of the season just ending. There is talk, however, of not awarding a Tony for best musical this year. It was hoped two late comers—*Grind* with Ben Vereen and *Big River* based on Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*—would save this poor musical season. Both are well worth a visit, but exciting, original musicals they are not.

Grind as directed by Harold Prince tries to work on so many levels that its character and appeal are confused. The setting is both on stage and behind the scenes at a Chicago burlesque theatre during the Depression. Racial segregation is booming so the audience on stage hide much backstage bitterness and heartbreak. Add an IRA character with a guilt complex and you have a complex brew for a popular musical.

The book and music are adequate but not memorable, so the main burden falls on the players. Mr Vereen is never less than pleasing as actor, singer and dancer, but he is at his best when he is allowed to portray character and not left to try to carry the whole show himself.

Stubby Kaye, who made his name as Nicely Nicely in *Guns and Dolls*, portrays an ageing comic who has problems finding an enduring stogie. He, too, is expected to carry more of the show than he should, but he is very welcome whenever he appears, though he deserves more help from the writers than he gets.

Grind, with its slack pacing, gives an impression of opening too soon before its outstanding problems were solved, but it deserves credit for dealing entertainingly and frankly with the racial scene, a topic that popular musicals generally avoid like the plague—or AIDS.

That brings us to the last new musical of the Broadway season. *Big River* has tuneful country music by Roger Miller, vigorous direction by Des

McAnuff, and some attractive performers. What it lacks is Twain's genius which kept his narrative going strong from beginning to end whereas *Big River* sagged mid-way. This is not the exciting new musical Broadway awaits impatiently, but it is a pleasant evening if you like masterpieces brought down to a charming, unchallenging level.

Adaptations are probably condemned to being second-rate, but in a season in which *Leader of the Pack* on its 25th performance became the longest-running new musical, *Big River* has received a hearty welcome than perhaps it really merits. One of the recent casualties was a revival of *Take Me Along*, the 1959 musical based on O'Neill's only comedy. Ah! Wilderness! It closed immediately after opening night and this was interpreted as meaning the well-made musicals of the Fifties were doomed in the Eighties. But, in fact, this revival was an inferior production with no star names and that explains its failure. Broadway has a high standard as regards style if not content.

Stephen Bierley meets a sporting playwright

Golden track record

THE first time Louise Page went to the theatre she was taken to see Noddy. "I hadn't read the book, but they had his car on the stage. It was wonderful. I don't think I had ever seen a car indoors before."

It was a potent image in her own plays she delights in bringing the outdoors indoors. *Golden Girls*, currently running at The Pit, reaches its climax with the final of a women's 4 x 100 metres relay race. It has been known, as Miss Page has seen herself, "to have a couple of 60-year-old ladies leaping out of their seats and cheering."

For a playwright, that she "expected to be shut down in flames" *Golden Girls* has proved a great success. Performances in London are "virtually sold out, and it has been enthusiastically greeted in Leeds. A radio version is also in the pipeline."

It is Miss Page's first "big play," commissioned by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Spear ratters and ladies-in-waiting found themselves thrust into a world of tortured training, especially the five leading ladies who make up the relay team.

"The physio's been working overtime at the Barbican," said Miss Page, with perhaps a hint of relief.

The ideas germinated in the early Eighties at the time of the Moscow Olympics when she became fascinated with athletics. But, she says, it is a play about "ambition and hypocrisy." "When Dorcas speaks of her ambitions as a runner, I just wrote about my feelings towards writing."

Golden Girls has taken over her life this year. Now she is about to buy a small house in Derbyshire and, between working at the Royal Opera, get down to completing other projects. Her only real regret about the play is that the RSC, on its transfer from Stratford, would not use a re-written version which has been running in Leeds.

The sporting theme is due to crop up again soon. Miss Page has completed the first part of what she hopes will be a series for Central Television centred on a women's soccer team.

"I'm not really interested in star roles—I like to work in group theatre." This is what has drawn her to the sporting arena, not sport as such. "The nearest I get to it is swimming at lengths of the local pool."

Other works on the go include a new version of *Beauty and the Beast* for this Christmas, a play about the North-South divide for the Royal Court called *Hawks and Doves*, and a musical in collaboration with Liza Sells, who composed the sound tapes for *Golden Girls*.

Hawks and Doves will be a thriller, which she likens loosely to David Copperfield. She wants to write about the split in British society and, like her other plays, it will have a strong narrative. "I'm not interested in the agit-prop stuff of the Seventies."

She delights in the thought of all those opening nights. "I know I should admit to loving them. It's the first read-through. I just want to say 'thank you very much and goodbye'."

BRIEFING

THEATRE

ROBIN Phillips's production of *Antony and Cleopatra* opens at Chichester. Diana Rigg, Denis Quillan, Norman Rodway star. Kenneth Branagh plays the title role in *Adrian Noble's* production of *The Tragedy of Hamlet* at the Barbican and Robert Holman's. Today comes into The Pit directed by Bill Alexander with Penny Downie and Roger Allam among the cast. Alfred Fagon's *Lonely Cowboy* bows at The Tricycle, directed by Nicola Kent. David Thacker's production of *Messiah* For Messiahs opens at the Young Vic with Peter Guinness and Margot Leicester.

Innes's *The Bald Prima Donna* and *Oscar's* A time story arrive at the Almeida from the Leicester Haymarket Studio. The National Youth Theatre present Roger Steffens's *Tomorrow, Just You Wait and See* at the Imperial War Museum as part of the V6 Festival.

Recommended
Pravda (Olivier, Monday to Thursday). Brecht and Hare's brilliant comedy about Fleet Street's capitulation to a South African tycoon. Anthony Hopkins brilliant as the rapacious hero.
Tom and Viv (Royal Court). Tom's cold in Michael Hastings's compassionate view of T. S. Eliot's first marriage. Julie Covington beautifully brittle as Viv.
Michael Billington



Kenneth Branagh as Henry V

OPERA

TWO important new productions. *Figaro* (Cardiff) Tuesday, tomorrow week. Tuesday week marks the return of exciting new production. Romanian producer, Lucian Finelli, to Welsh National Opera after his extraordinary M-A-S-H-hit *Carmen*. Again the designers are Raduza and Mituna. Secure and the results can be guaranteed not to please the fogies.
Michael Tippett gets the care and attention his 80th year

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deserves with David Pountney's no-expense-spared new staging of *The Midsummer Marriage* (Coliseum Wednesday, tomorrow week. Friday week designed by Stefanos Lazaridis and conducted by Mark Elder. The G.O.M.'s magical psycho-myth has Helen Field and John Treleaven as the central couple. Lesley Garrett and Malvina De Lencastre as their working-class Papageno equivalents, and Anthony Raffell as the wicked capitalist King Fisher.

The WNO revive their John Cooley staging of *Tosca* (Cardiff next Friday, Wednesday week) with Josephine Barrow as the diva, Kristian Johansson as her Mario and Anthony Baldwin as Scarpia. Graegort Nowak conducts.

Recommended

Orlando (Glasgow tomorrow, Tuesday, Thursday). Christopher Fettes's magical and original treatment of Handel's great magic opera, conducted by Richard Hickox, with James Bowman, Eiddwen Harrhy, Lillian Watson heading the cast.
Madam Butterfly (Coliseum Tuesday, next Friday). The searing theatricality of Graham Vick's astonishing and unusual staging, led by Janice Cairn's intense and moving Butterfly. Tom Sutcliffe

DANCE

MERCE Cunningham and his Dance Company with John Cage return to Sadler's Wells on Tuesday for their 21st anniversary London season which runs until June 23. The four programmes include no fewer than seven British premieres, none of them to be missed. Programme 1 is now changed to *Duets, Pictures and Locals*; Programme 2 on Wednesday is *Twins*; *Phrases*, *Redrum*, *name* and *Programme 3* on Friday next is *Doubles*, *Quartet* and *Pictures*.

The Cunningham season is part of the Arts Festival celebrating at the Bloomsbury Theatre from Monday (until June 1) with *A Bite of The Big Apple*.
Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet celebrates the Royal Opera House until the end of next week. They dance *The Sleeping Beauty* tomorrow night; *Swan Lake* next Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday; the triple bill of *Les Sylphides*, *Petrushka* (with Lusting) and *Cherest* next Wednesday.

Glasgow's Mayfest presents the 1st Ball Dancers from Chicago in their European premiere at the Mitchell Theatre next Thursday. All Mayfest events from 041-357 3450.
Mary Clarke

ROCK

Colour Field: Cardiff University (tomorrow), Leeds University (Saturday). Chippinham Goldiggers (Monday), and Manchester Hacienda (Thursday). The drab dopey voice of ex-Special Terro Hall finds a new home in the folksy sandiness of *Virgins and Philistines*. Working Week: Dundee University (tonight), Leeds Warehouse (Sunday). Instigators of loose movement known as Soul Jazz. Simon Booth's group is big on stylish, big-band arrangements, small on Sade—quality songs.
Richard Thompson: Band: Workshop: Bataclan Centre (tonight), Southport Arts Centre (Saturday). A master of tuneful, respectable self-pity plays his bitter folk rock. Dire Straits: what the vulgar romanticism.

Barney Hoskyns

Dale Harris hails the Merce Cunningham company which opens at Sadler's Wells on Tuesday

Dancing to the music of time

Merce Cunningham (right) and his company in *Pictures* (below)



creation of a Cunningham ballet. Each is, rather, a means of aesthetic enrichment.

Apart from the need to agree about the basic circumstances of a piece—how long it lasts, the number of performers it requires, the nature of the space in which it is to be shown—Cunningham offers his collaborators complete freedom. In other words, he allows them the opportunity to create exactly as they want to in their own particular field without any need to refer to what the other participants in the enterprise are up to.

For that reason, perhaps, the term collaborators is less apt than partners. There is no evidence that any of the



several arts that comprise a Cunningham ballet is subversive in any other that, for example, the designer of the decor and costumes is interpreting the nature of the choreography and is therefore its humble servant.

There is even less evidence that the choreographer is in any way interpreting the music. Instead of a visualisation of, or a comment upon, a piece of music, Cunningham offers his audience a concert of essentially autonomous sounds—almost invariably electronic these days and usually played by the composer—at the same time that the dancing to which the music deliberately bears no kinetic or interpretive relationship, is taking place.

do not have in, say, *Phrases*, where the athleticism is emphasised by sleek, brilliantly coloured tights—until, that is, they put on extreme pieces of clothing, in some cases sweaters in others leg warmers. In yet others leather belts, as if they were dressing up for a party.

There is no doubt, too, that the character of the music plays a similar role in affecting our response to what we are looking at, even when the combination is essentially arbitrary. In *Native Green*, the music by John King (Gliss in Signs), which sounds like the workings of a textile mill as heard through a half-closed door, creates an aural landscape of dream-like impersonality. In *Pictures*, on the other hand, the music by David Behrman (*Interspecies Smalltalk*) is dominated by the plaintive emotive sound of an amplified violin—the result being that the dancers' movements take on a strange and haunting poignancy.

All these ballets—as well as *Trails*, *Inlets 2* and *Quartet*, which the company will be bringing to London for the first time next week—are primarily studies in movement. They are also studies in relationships, and, as such, infinitely subtle and suggestive. They are, in addition, thanks to Cunningham's superb company, wonderfully vivid.

This season Helen Barrow, Alan Good, Catherine Kerr, Robert Swinston and Megan Walker have particularly distinguished themselves. And once again Chris Komar has shown himself to be among the finest dancers of our time. But the most amazing of them all is Cunningham himself. Now almost 66, he only appears in certain works, and then briefly. Whenever he does, however, it is like a visitation from a great philosopher, whose every gesture bespeaks profound, hard-won wisdom.

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Miss O'Hanlon,

DIARY

THE British School of Motorists' enormous donation to the Liberals—the biggest ever given to a British political party—has sent opponents scuttling back to the Department of Trade report into the involvement of its chairman, Anthony Jacobs, in the Ozald Group in the early Seventies.

The investigation cleared Mr Jacobs, but was highly critical of an anti-competition arrangement he was involved in when he threatened to leave the company. It speaks of a "sham agreement... a cynical disregard of the need for frankness" and of a transaction that was "unattractive and unacceptable." But a colleague in the scheme, singled out for criticism, later went with Mr Jacobs to BSM, was a co-director with him of two other companies.

In 1972, Mr Jacobs failed to be appointed MD of Ozald and decided to hit back by forming with his cousin, Mr M. Miller, a competing company in South Africa, with a holding company in Liechtenstein. When the latter was set up in July 1972, Ozald offered Mr Jacobs £100,000 to buy them off. This sum was hidden in Ozald's accounts and later lied about by the colleague Mr Jacobs later set up with at BSM.

Mr Jacobs became a non-executive director and later told the DTI inquiry that, since Ozald was "in effect buying off competitors," the board took the utmost precautions "to avoid putting anything on paper. Ozald pretended the £150,000 was for 'consultancy services'." The truth was only turned up by persistent accountants. The DTI condemned the transaction as reprehensible, but confined itself to saying that it was "unfortunate that in this report Mr Jacobs figures in respect of the part he played concerning advisory services." A separate ICA inquiry found no grounds for criticising Mr Jacobs. The DTI never found out who ultimately got the money.

Mr Jacobs, a former Liberal candidate and now party treasurer, stands by his former colleague, who has since left the BSM to run his own company. He was "cared more than anyone else and didn't deserve it," he said last night. "He is a man of immense integrity who acted foolishly."

IT IS late time again already, and rate-capping is claiming still more victims. The leaving Campaign Group met on Wednesday and decided to knock Mr David Blunkett off its slate for the NEC, guilty by association, it seems, of Sheffield's decision to set a rate. This seems optimistic, as does Mr Blunkett's replacement, Mr Tom Doherty.

LARRY GOSTIN may have problems with his new civil liberties group, the Libertarian Alliance, for there are already two libertarian alliances in existence, both on the extreme Right. The looper one, based in Poland Street, London, is into the fringes of heroin advocacy. The more mainstream group, has appealed to Mr Gostin to change his organisation's name immediately.

CUNNING, these Yanks. Now better for the American Ambassador to travel incognito through the streets of London than by taxi? Armour-plated, mine-proof taxi, that is. Whether he still does is not known. But the ambassadorial taxi of 1973 is up for sale in Exchange and Mart this week for a mere £12,000. Only 7,000 miles on the clock. There have been one or two owners since the vehicle was knocked up to BSM specifications, ending up in the hands of the current seller, Robin Wood of West London.

KEN LIVINGSTONE is finally resigning as editor of Labour Herald, to be replaced by John McDonnell. Ken says he couldn't labour on with people "who have betrayed me and whom I hate."

THE TASK of finding someone to do a PR job for "m'friends" (or simply "m'friends," as barristers sometimes call solicitors) is proving an uphill one. The last Law Society PR man left in difficult circumstances but, as we reported last month, a successor was found in the form of the former Labour MP, Mr Michael Ward. Alas, the current New Law Journal reports that the society was greatly put out by this col. uard's disclosure that Mr Ward had once done PR for Sir T. Dan Smith. Mr Ward was put out that they should be put out, and also by the continuing mystery of his predecessor's departure. So now Mr Ward has decided he doesn't want the job after all and m'friends are left once more looking for a replacement.

Alan Rusbridger

Are the security services becoming more politicised? asks RICHARD NORTON-TAYLOR

Time for a little self scrutiny

SEVERAL former MI5 officials have been lavishly recently with their criticisms of the way the organisation works. In a letter from prison, where he is serving a 23 year sentence for attempting to send secrets to the KGB, Michael Bettaney criticised senior MI5 officials, including Sir John Jones, the former director-general who retired last month, for encouraging the security service to monitor the activities of domestic groups, including CND and trade unions.

Another former MI5 officer, Cathy Massiter, described in a television programme how the organisation surveys domestic targets. Peter Wright, a former official who now lives in Tasmania, has described how, instead of putting its own house in order, MI5 management began to divert resources to domestic groups, especially after the 1972 miners' strike.

Yesterday, the Security Commission delivered its own scathing attack on MI5 management, and by implication, on Sir John Jones. But it steered clear of the operations of MI5 itself; in

deed, it said that there was nothing to suggest that they should be called into question. Instead, it blamed senior MI5 officials for mishandling Bettaney's career.

According to the Security Commission's report there was no reason to doubt Bettaney's loyalty at the time he was recruited, even though at Oxford University he was a member of a right-wing group with a keen interest in Nazi politics. He had subsequently lived for a year in West Germany with a priest from Eastern Europe.

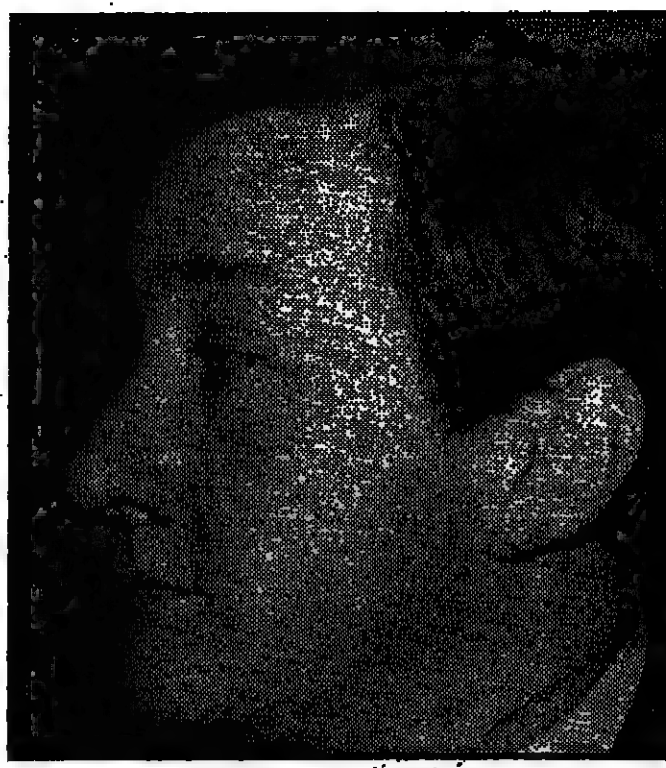
The Security Commission reserved its criticism for the failure of MI5 management to review Bettaney's positive vetting clearance, due in 1981, and for keeping him too long in Northern Ireland. It was during his 15 months there that Bettaney says his disillusion started.

He began to drink heavily and was arrested for being drunk in Oxford Street in October 1982. A few days later he was fined for a railway fare offence. He was then transferred to Section K of MI5, responsible for counter-espionage work.

MI5 is responsible not only for vetting its own employees, but also helping other departments vet their staff. Three years ago, the Security Commission emphasised the importance of searching for "character defects." Ironically, it suggested these presented more of a threat than ideological motives.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons yesterday that she had asked the new MI5 director-general, Sir Anthony Duff, to consider "internal outlets" to allow MI5 officers to express their anxieties or grievances. It was a tacit recognition of the claim that MI5 officials are increasingly questioning the activities they are being asked to carry out.

Former MI5 officials say that the security services, and its 2,000 officials, are being increasingly politicised—in common with the Civil Service. That is one reason why there are growing demands expressed on both sides of the Commons yesterday that MI5—its budget of £180 million—should be monitored, either by Parliament or by an independent Ombudsman.



Michael Bettaney: letter from prison cell

NICHOLAS CUMMING-BRUCE in Thailand examines the background to a Leyland contract

Big six-wheeler diesel engine Bangkok bus



MUSSOLINI's feat of making Italian trains run on time will look pretty modest if Leyland Bus and its partners in a British consortium pull off their deal with Bangkok's Mass Transit Authority. The £285 million contract which BMTA announced yesterday it plans to award to the British group is not merely to supply buses, 4,000 of them, but to make the bus system work.

In an attempt to drum up some public favour for the deal, officials of the government and publicly-derided Bangkok citizens with the notion the deal will mean quality bus services and regular schedules.

Such promises are the stuff of dreams to Bangkokians trapped in the nightmare world of their capital's traffic. Bus users are squeezed and shaken into over-heated human pulp as they cram themselves aboard

the BMTA's present fleet of rattling jalopies. And passengers are deflected by the roar of ageing engines or choked by the torrent of black effluvia trailing behind.

But although BMTA's announcement was something of a victory for Leyland, which fought off European and Japanese competition, that does not yet mean there is a deal. The package must be endorsed by the Communications Ministry and then by the Cabinet, where it is clear there will be tough opposition.

Finance Ministry officials are working on a "zero growth" budget designed to check soaring deficits, and they are turning a single eye on public spending proposals that involve recourse to foreign credit. They have also launched a privatisation programme, designed to increase efficiency and reduce debts in the public sector. BMTA, which they regard as a £70,000 a day, is an obvious target.

The Leyland deal, BMTA

officials say, will help the company and bring profitability in a matter of years. But with privatisation as a possibility, the Ministry may prove reluctant to authorise a big new infusion of public money.

The snags and pitfalls that beset the deal in this period of bureaucratic wheeling and dealing, are nothing to the potholes, real and metaphorical, that swart Leyland and its buses on the streets of Bangkok. Not for nothing have "well informed sources" been seducing the local press with accounts of how the gleaming single and double-decker buses from Leyland come with aluminium bodies, power brakes, and power steering, plus a life expectancy three times that of their Japanese competitors.

Significantly, an important part of the British package is the construction of 24 maintenance depots around the sprawling capital, and spare parts will reportedly come free for the first two

years of the contract.

Such considerations were crucial for a bus fleet which takes a severe beating at the hands of the many speed-crazed jockeys who drive it. Often they must perform a damaging semi-amphibian role, plunging through the floodwaters of a sinking city. Bangkok has lost many of its old canals in favour of roads, but during the rainy season it still merits its nickname as the "Venice of the East."

The cost of keeping the present bus fleet on the roads, together with high rental charges for its maintenance depots, are among factors blamed by previous BMTA management for the organisation's heavy losses. But even if Leyland overcomes these obstacles, there are other bad habits—corruption—it will have to tackle. Officials say privately this is a major factor in BMTA's financial difficulties.

Large amounts of revenue collected from passengers, they suspect, never quite make it into the organisation's coffers.

Already in trouble over Father Boff, the Pope fearlessly visits Holland this weekend where his views have divided the Church. ROBERT NOWELL reports

Dutch courage

WHEN the Pope kisses the tarmac of Eindhoven airport early tomorrow afternoon, at the start of a four-day visit to the Netherlands, he will have a hard job ahead of him if he is to arouse the kind of enthusiasm that greeted his visit to Britain in 1982, or to Ireland in 1979.

Events over the past 20 years, and particularly the Vatican's treatment of the Dutch Church, have conspired to polarise Dutch Catholics. Many of them, probably a majority, feel they have been betrayed by Rome. Others welcome the efforts being made to restore as much as can be salvaged of the uneasy pre-war ghetto Catholicism.

But it is not just the development of Catholicism that is at stake in Holland. What is at issue is how Catholics generally should interpret the Second Vatican Council, and the changes it brought about in the Catholic Church's understanding of itself. Did it mean a reversal of centralisation, more freedom and responsibility for national churches and for the ordinary Catholic worshipper? Or did it just mean a tidying-up of the existing system, restoration rather than reform?

The Dutch bishops had little doubt that it meant the first. They developed an open way of exercising their authority that fitted in with the temper of Dutch society. To implement Vatican II they set up a Pastoral Council to debate the policies the Dutch Church should follow.

Two of the Council's decisions caused particular offence in Rome.

One was its verdict that the arguments of Humanae Vitae, the 1968 encyclical in which Pope Paul VI reaffirmed the traditional condemnation of artificial birth control, were not convincing. The other was its call to allow priests to be married.

Throughout the period since Vatican II, Dutch Catholicism has gone through a period of rapid adjustment to life in a pluralist secular society. This has meant a drop in church attendance which some have easily been able to present as a result of the changes brought about by the Vatican Council. Priests began leaving the ministry in greater numbers.

There were doctrinal arguments, too. In 1986 a small group of extreme conservatives denounced the newly-published catechism for adults to the authorities in Rome. The row dragged on for three years until a supple ment was issued.

From Rome's point of view the Dutch Church, once so dependable—with only 1 per cent of the world's Catholic population it supplied 10 per cent of the world's Catholic missionaries—now seemed to be going off the rails. It had to be brought back into line.

Rome squashed Dutch plans for a permanent national Pastoral Council, but its real trump card was its control of the appointment of bishops.

The tradition was for the cathedral chapter of a vacant diocese to forward three names to Rome of suitable candidates. In the wake of Vatican II, extensive consultation was carried out in order to ensure that these reflected the wishes of the clergy and people of the diocese.

In 1970, Rome began a policy of ignoring diocesan wishes. It imposed what it regarded as "safe" men in Dutch sees, beginning with Bishop Adrian Simonis of Rotterdam (now Archbishop of Utrecht and about to become a Cardinal), and following this with the appointment of the extreme conservative bishop, Jan Matthijs Gijzen of Roermond.

The most recent appointment, that of Bishop Jan Ter Schure of Den Bosch, aroused even stronger protest. His predecessor, Bishop Bluyssen, said publicly that he was disappointed, and even Archbishop Simonis has been reported to be unhappy. An opinion poll found that only 5 per cent of the Catholics of the diocese were happy with the appointment.

Among those elsewhere who registered their disapproval were the nuns of the convent at Amersfoort where, next Tuesday, the Pope will spend the last night of his stay.

Not only the Dutch will be watching with interest to see how the Pope handles this visit. For they are not alone in developing their own distinctive interpretation of Catholicism in ways that do not always fit easily with the directives coming from Rome. The Dutch were merely the first off the mark.

When Mrs Thatcher flies to Perth today, writes JAMES NAUGHTIE, she will find her troops restive

No longer a happy band of Scottish pilgrims

IT HAS been one of the great political sights of the year—the Scottish Tories, these most traditional of Conservatives in rampant opposition to their Government. Mrs Thatcher, when she flies to Perth today, is going to find that the rallying speech has a purpose, for a change.

Of course, she will get her loyal ovation. Nothing less would be decent. But no-one who heard the muted applause—accompanied by an awkward crouching ovation—for George Younger yesterday could doubt that the northern ramparts are threatening to crumble still further.

The rates imbroglio, in which Mr Younger is still sunk despite his promise of £40 million in extra aid, has highlighted the weaknesses of the Conservatives in Scotland. It was long evident in electoral performance, but often obscured by the huge parliamentary majority at Westminster and the traditional sympathy which has characterised the party's relationship with Mrs Thatcher.

That has gone now. The amiable Mr Younger, whose Cabinet face has been one of sweet reason, in deliberate contrast to the Tebbit/Lawson scowl, found it difficult yesterday to deal with a conference which cheered a Tory councillor who warned that their throats were about to be cut at the next election and another who spoke darkly of "the ratepayers' revenge."

It is a break with tradi-



George Younger: embroiled in the rates

ing ovations for proposing some of the reforms in local government spending controls which this time had caused such agony. It is not long, as Mr Younger felt necessary to point out, since conference after conference refused to accept a single formula for rates reform.

What was extraordinary was the promise of new aid, and a pledge of legislation before the next election was not good enough. With a new ginger group due to meet in Perth this morning and the ladies of a certain age joining enthusiastically in the applause for the youngsters dashing the Government, it is evident that there is a genuine change of mood among the Tories.

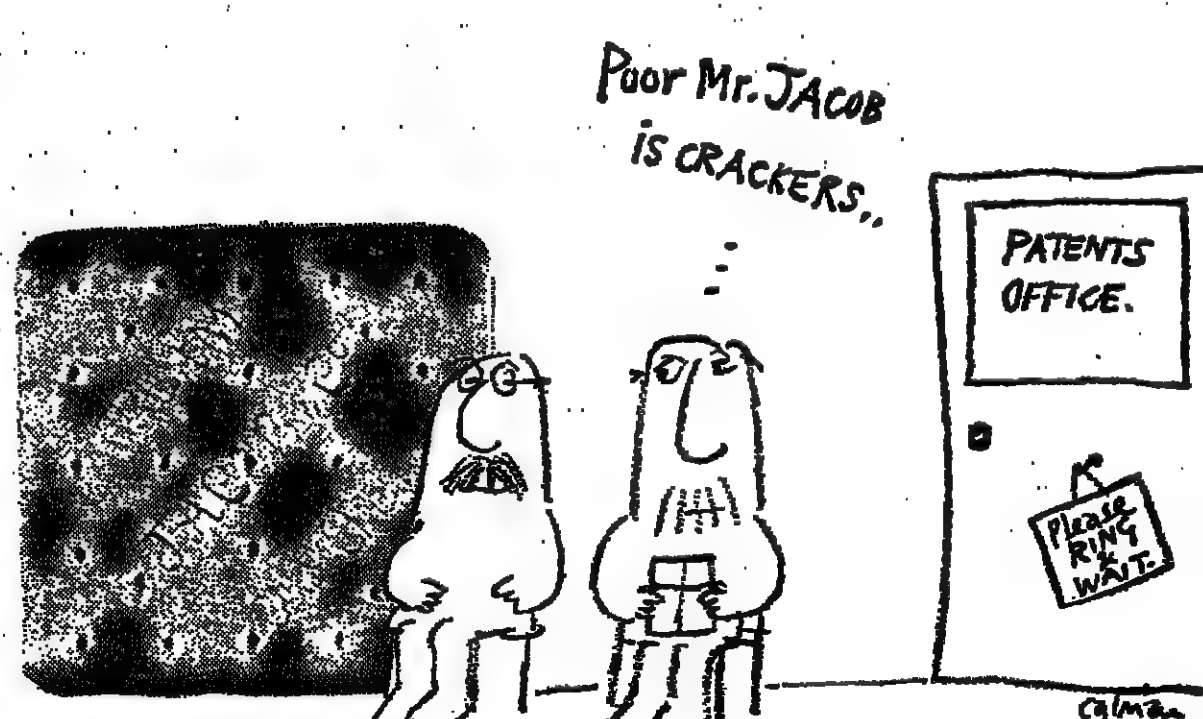
It cannot be solved easily, of course. There is no unity available for the Government in any of the obvious solutions. The poll-takers of the Right were active yesterday and democratic, they said it was—but they still had to do battle with the wets who will stand up against such a change. The difficulties, as Mr Younger well knows, cannot be solved by ingenious deals with the Treasury.

Mrs Thatcher is accustomed to come to Perth to lead a happy band which is there to be led. This year they want more. They will get their reassurance of rates reform—a promise in which Mr Younger was clearly meant to be the warm-up act—but behind it all there is a quivering unease that is striking.

Nowhere else in Britain does the Conservative Party vote together with greater electoral support. In the past, sheer faith has carried them through. Now, deep in mid-term, it seems that even the diehards are concerned. Mr John Selwyn Gummer watched yesterday's events with a wary eye, doubtless worrying lest such restlessness starts to spread.

They said last night that it had been a lively debate—the Tory euphemism for trouble. Sir Hector Monro, MP for Dundee and a most traditional soul, even found it convenient—perhaps necessary—to paint himself as a radical asking more from the party chiefs. To the old hands it was the witches' warning: if Hector is worried who is left?

When Mrs Thatcher arrives today, Mr Gummer might find a moment to give her a word of warning. What is interesting is how she will react. This time, the defiant style might not be enough.



We finally cracked it. It took us a bit of time though, and in one way William Jacob beat us to it. His introduction of cream crackers in 1885 scooped the market and made a lasting impression on the British palate.

Although our founder was a contemporary of Mr. Jacob, it was the best part of a century before we could proudly unveil our new cracker (a device for turning low value fuel oil into high value petrol).

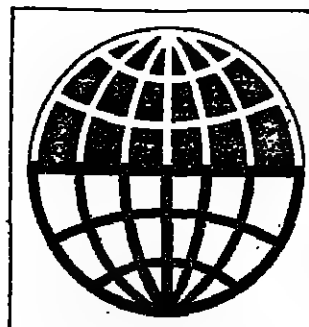
It's currently earning millions every year for Britain's balance of payments.

But we can't claim our cracker will still be around in another century.

Energy technology moves a little faster—and being in front when it comes to innovation keeps us in business.

But as the oldest international oil company in Britain, we're not at all cheesed off about sharing our 100th birthday with Mr. Jacob.

Mobil



THIRD COLUMN

Fabian fudge

ABOUT 50 people — 60, to be charitable — are gathered together in a committee room in County Hall to attend a meeting organised by the Labour Aid and Development Committee. There is an atmosphere of progressive colonialism, shades of the old Fabian Colonial Bureau. The meeting is to be addressed by the deputy leader of the Labour Party, Roy Hattersley, no less, as well as by minor luminaries like Dame Judith Hart and Stuart Holland, the shadow spokesman for overseas development. This is not, we are told, an official organ of the Party, but a pressure group within it on Third World issues.

"I'm afraid I have a disappointment for you," says Debbie in the chair rather crisply. Roy Hattersley, it appears, is unable to come. Trouble in the FLP. Other speakers, too, have other commitments and have to slip away early. It's always difficult to fit development into an MP's busy schedule. But Debbie is disappointed, glossy with enthusiasm. Stuart Holland just has time to launch into a party political broadcast on behalf of the Tigre People's Liberation Front, and to denounce the deficiencies of Ethiopian famine relief.

Though he would deny it vigorously, Holland — like most of the Labour Party's Third World advocates — is an old-style Fabian colonialist, cloaking essentially imperialist attitudes behind a veneer of internationalism. He keeps up a steady flow of development babble:

"market forces... role of multi-national capital... food aid debate... water development worldwide... important role of non-governmental agencies... like-minded multilateralism... fulfilling certain basic criteria... reverse conditionality... challenging vertical distribution of income... pluralism within a mixed market sector... basic needs approach... two more points if I may, Debbie... need to challenge hegemony of multinational capital... largest feasible macro view of world recovery."

And then Debbie comes to the rescue: "Thank you, Stuart, for getting us off to such a good start. And now we're on to what Labour would actually do, were it ever to regain power. In particular what would it do about the World Bank and the IMF, widely held to be responsible for many of the problems of the Third World?"

In a recent book by Teresa Hayter and Catherine Watson (Aid: Rhetoric and Reality, Pluto, £4.95), the authors call for a British withdrawal from these two institutions. Withdrawal, they suggest, would only make "a small dent in the post-war hegemony of the World Bank in Western aid policies," but it would at least weaken it. "It is by the constraints of finance and of some of the political legitimacy which enables it to maintain the pretence of impartiality."

Stuart Holland rejects anything so dramatic. Fabian-like, he wants change, but he agrees that Labour is "unlikely in the short term to change the policies of the Bank and the Fund single-handed. But we shall be working with others..." he adds wistfully.

Terry Davis, No. two in Labour's Treasury team and standing in for Roy Hattersley, also strikes "a note of caution about what could be realistically achieved." There is talk of "adding our weight to other countries such as Holland and Scandinavia who tend to have a more realistic approach to such matters." Terry Davis, an unapologetic chauvinist, has no desire to say goodbye to the World Bank. There is a need, he says in reply to questions, for more World Bank aid for birth control.

Judith Hart, never happier than when trying to dam the Limpopo or to change the face of Mozambican agriculture, is more radical. After years at the development front, she has become increasingly outspoken. "The changes that are needed at the Bank and the Fund," she says, "are so radical, and get so little support, that I doubt whether we are going to get them made in the time available."

She can't quite bring herself to call for withdrawal, but says that "we should start raising a number of question marks." Like, for example, "who really needs the IMF? In what other ways could help be brought to Third-World countries? And does Britain have to be one of its key members?" These questions still lie on Labour's agenda. Will they be answered before the next election?

Richard Gott

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Hemmed-in by history and different kinds of exploitation — Ugandan refugees in a Sudan camp. Picture by Sophie Baker

Drought and famine cannot be divorced from social policies, argues Mahmood Mamdani, below. How sensitive the politics of famine are is revealed through the letter, right

How to stop the fat of the land feeding off the poor

I AM sorry I have a rather bad cough today. You can say I am prone to disaster, unlike some of you in the audience who look rather resistant to it. I remember hearing a story, during the Sahelian famine of the seventies, of a fat man and a thin man. Said the fat man to the thin man, "You should be ashamed of yourself. If someone visiting the country saw you before anyone else, he would think there was a famine here." Replied the thin man, "And if he saw you next, he would know the reason for the famine!"

The simple point I am trying to make is that if you divide our society into two, into the majority prone to disaster and that minority resistant to it, you are likely to find some sort of a relation between the two. Last year, I was doing research in Lira District. I met a capitalist farmer in one village. She had over 500 acres which she had bought (technically leased). I wondered how she could buy land in an area where people observed claim right to land quite strictly.

She replied, "The 1980 famine helped. People were in need. For the first time, they were willing to sell land, cows — things they wouldn't dream of selling in normal times." Famine, it would seem, is a disaster for the poor but an opportunity for the rich. The former are disaster-prone, the latter disaster-resistant.

Disasters are not natural but social catastrophes. They are the result of social conditions: deforestation, soil erosion, desertification. Lack of rain does not cause a famine, it is simply the occasion for it. It triggers off the famine. But why do people cut down

forests? Why do they over-graze? Why do they work the same old tired land without resting it? Is it out of malice? Or sheer ignorance? Not really.



Among the disaster-prone. Picture by Sophie Baker

I am going to talk about Uganda because this is where we are. All Africa has become much more prone to disaster in this century, and particularly in the past two decades, than it ever was before. So, I want to begin with the impact of the colonial period on the major producers of wealth, the peasants, in this country. An analysis of how this country was integrated into the colonial capitalist economy would show that there were two major forms of integration, depending on the region we may consider.

The first was where an area was turned into a cheap labour reserve. This was the migrant labour system whereby the wife remained at home producing food in the village, but the husband migrated as a worker to a plantation. He was employed only part-time, the rest of the year, he returned to the village and lived off the food cultivated by the wife.

The second was where an area was turned into a reserve of cheap raw materials. You take the above system, with the wife producing food and the husband cheap labour and collapse the distance between the husband and the wife.

With the wife still producing food and the husband producing an export crop, you now have a cheap raw material reserve. Cheap because the family produced its own food. The cash it got from selling cotton or coffee was just to pay tax and to buy a few manufactured necessities.

Now, in Uganda, there were quite a few cheap labour reserves at the outset of colonial rule: Lango, Acholi, West Nile, Kigezi. But in the 1920s, as the Belgians increased exploitation in Rwanda, the Banyarwanda peasants began to migrate to Uganda. In the late 1920s there was out-migration from Rwanda due to a political crisis. As a result, the British introduced cash crop production in Lango and Acholi in the 1920s and then in West Nile in the 1930s.

Today the only remaining cheap labour reserve is Kigezi. The rest of the country continues to be a cheap raw material reserve. Now the whole system of cheap raw material production required two conditions.

One, that labour meets a substantial part of its own cost of production (food cost). And two, that labour remains the major input in production; or, to put it differently, that the technological base remains low.

The above remains the general condition of the Ugandan peasantry today. The peasant is essentially trapped in two main types of exploitation.

The first is exploitation through unequal market relations where you sell cheap and buy expensive. This is monopoly exploitation, whether by state or private agencies.

In July, 1984, I investigated the millet trade in Lira District, and discovered that peasants received just 25 per cent of the final price of millet.

In December, 1983, I researched the coffee trade in Buganda. My data showed that the peasant received exactly 18.96 per cent of what the government got in the world market for the same coffee.

You would be surprised by how constant this proportion has been since the colonial period, whether in the first independent government, or in the Amin period or now.

The details vary from region to region. But together, they amount to three types of forcible expropriation. These must be forced expropriations, looking for a solution outside the parameters of the peasant's total labour in certain villages, forced crops, usually those for export, or forced cash contributions for the party or the church.

The result of this dual exploitation — that through unequal market relations and that through direct force — is that the peasant operates with a permanent handicap: his surplus product is regularly siphoned off. His cash income is barely enough to meet immediate needs: for tax, to replenish a hoe or buy some salt or medicine. Peasants don't eat sugar any more; in many villages in the north, they can't even buy soap any more.

The point is that the peasant is forced to begin the production cycle each time with roughly the same or even worse technical base than the previous time around. Walter Rodney wrote that the African peasant entered colo-

onialism with a hoe and came out of it with a hoe. He should have added that the hoe was locally produced, the one he came out with was imported.

To grasp the point better, let us look at the peasant's labour process. It consists of three elements: land, labour, and implements of labour. We have seen that the peasant has little choice so far as the implements are concerned; his technology is relatively stagnant. To get out of a crisis or to endeavour for prosperity, what does a peasant do? He uses whatever control he has over land and over labour.

He works the tired land over and over. Why is it that periods of fallow are getting shorter and shorter in Kigezi? Or that cassava is replacing matoke and beans on Entebbe Road?

At the same time, the peasant has as many children as possible to maximise the labour at his disposal. For a middle-class family, a child may be just a mouth to feed for 20 years, but for a peasant family after only four years the child is also two hands to work. People are not poor because they have large families; they have large families because they are poor!

What is to be done? To begin with, it is necessary to safeguard against a utopian thinking, against looking for a solution outside the parameters of the peasant's total labour in certain villages, forced crops, usually those for export, or forced cash contributions for the party or the church.

From this perspective, we can correctly define the role of relief or foreign aid. It can only be complementary to a local solution, not a substi-

tute for it. Failure to understand this can even compound the problem. During the Sahel famine of the 70s, for example, 30 per cent of the population of Mauritania was entirely dependent on relief food by 1974.

Such assistance is not an antidote to disaster. It becomes its hand-maiden.

Only that relief is worthwhile which undermines itself in the long run; which restores the initiative of the victim, and does not strangle it, which sees victims not simply as objects to be helped, but as subjects potentially capable of transforming their disaster-prone situation.

My main point is that any strategy that claims to be a solution must seek to revive the creativity and the initiative of the people. Central to this must be to educate people about these relations which make them disaster-prone. This education must be based on investigation, concrete and independent.

If land is taken to create national parks, must organise for the return of the land. If labour is maimed and shackled by administrative coercion, we must organise to remove that coercion. If products of labour are appropriated through monopolistic market practices, we must organise to change them.

Simply put, we must organise concretely, organise on the basis of a common education and educate on the basis of independent and popular investigation.

This is the edited text of a talk given to the Uganda Red Cross conference on Disaster Prevention in Kampala on March 18, 1985.

A letter to the President of Uganda

Mr President, Dr Mahmood Mamdani, a Ugandan, an associate professor of political science and the acting head of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University, Kampala, has lately run into problems with your government for his committed scholarship and progressive political standpoint.

Around April 19, 1985, while away in Spain attending a conference with the permission of his vice-chancellor, Mamdani received a letter from the Information Department purporting to declare him an alien in his own country. The immediate circumstances of your Excellency, which appear to have led to this arbitrary and unlawful stripping of Mamdani's citizenship, thus rendering him stateless, is a talk he gave recently to the Uganda Red Cross Conference on Disaster Prevention. The conference was held in Kampala.

The speech, your Excellency, featured the scholar's views on the security of the state, and singled out for a violent attack his closing remarks. Subsequently, the minister appeared on television and repeated the attack.

Soon after, officials affiliated to the Ministry of State for Security (the Criminal Investigation Department) demanded that Mamdani's official identification card be surrendered. He refused. Subsequently he received a letter from the Immigration Department demanding that he submit certain information for the purposes of an "update of the files."

On April 30, Dr Mamdani supplied the requisite information. On April 12, he left for Spain. In April, a letter was received purporting to declare Dr Mamdani an alien and asking him to surrender his passport.

Dr Mamdani has written extensively on his country. He is the author of politics in Uganda and imperialism in Uganda and Pakistan in Uganda. He is also the author of a book on academic journals, published by the Faculty of Social Sciences, Makerere University.

During the Amin period, Dr Mamdani was in exile in Tanzania, where he taught in this university.

In view of your Excellency's position as Chancellor of the University of Makerere and your known progressive stance on academic excellence and on rights of citizens in a democratic society, we appeal to you to intervene and stop this harassment and restore Dr Mamdani's citizenship.

Dr K. J. Tumbala, Chairman of Dar es Salaam Academic Staff Assembly.

- African countries with food shortages: Angola, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Sudan, Ethiopia, Botswana, Burundi, Cape Verde, Kenya, Lesotho, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Tanzania, Zambia.
- UN estimate of emergency needs \$1.5 billion including \$1,078 million for food aid and transport and \$81 million for water projects.

- 150 million Africans threatened by famine.
- Food production has declined by 15 per cent since 1981.
- Food imports feed 1 in 5 Africans.
- Grain yields per hectare have fallen by a third in a decade.
- Industrial capacity is working at a third of its potential.
- Africa's interest payments are \$15 billion a year.

BANGLADESH

Upazilla struggle

President Ershad talks to Robert Bradnock on the eve of this week's elections

UNDAUNTED by continued rebuffs from the political parties or by the apathetic response of the electorate to his recent presidential referendum, President Ershad is urging Bangladeshis to the polls once more next week. Using his complete control of the media, he is giving daily prominence to the elections for the apparently mundane posts of chairman for the 460 upazillas

— the new units of local government. To the president the elections are a major step towards a new form of democratic government. He is optimistic, yet to be tested, is not widely shared. Throughout its 14-year life, Bangladesh has been beset by political crises. Successive governments, civilian and military, pampered the interests of a tiny minority and failed to build coherent political institutions or to bring development to the millions of rural and urban poor.

President Ershad's decision to re-impose martial law on March 1 was seen by many as another step back from building democratic institutions. His recent presidential referendum, a referendum of a corrupt and serving bureaucratic and military establishment. The president himself sees it differently, as an essential short-term check to the deliberately destructive tactics of the major opposition parties. Talking at the cantonment

residence which he occupies as chief of the armed forces, President Ershad argued that the upazilla elections are the culmination of a package of government reforms introduced last year.

The 460 upazilla councils each serve a population of about 200,000. The new councils have been given wide-ranging powers to raise revenue, for development planning and implementation. The key to their success lies in their accountability to the local electorate which will be tested in elections every two years.

"This will encourage them to live in their districts rather than setting up home in Dhaka. It will make them take an interest in the development of their villages," said Ershad.

The president claims that the upazilla have already had one notable success. As a result of the severe flood last summer some well-informed independent agencies forecasted the probability of famine and starvation. It didn't happen. The president puts that down to the effectiveness of the councils.

Each of the 460 was organised with godowns (warehouses) and allocated stocks of grain and cash. These were freely distributed as necessary. Daily reports to central government showed the level of stocks, and we were able to match the need with supply.

But the distribution of relief aid, on which Bangladesh is still heavily dependent, is not the longer term purpose of the upazilla reforms. "Bills have been poured away on useless projects or just unaccounted for. When I came I saw many aid projects, which were not at all what we needed — not at all."

He gave the example of the water board, referring to his own travels around villages. "I get a lot of complaints from villagers about not getting water from irrigation sluices that should be irrigating their land. So I ask — who's responsible for opening the sluice gates? Who keeps a record of where the water goes, who gets it, and for how long? No answer. The water board is hopeless, in chaos."

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Ershad — optimistic

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etter to
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Uganda

The political double act with a forthright challenge

Michael Meadowcroft

THE caricature of the Alliance's doorstep approach depicted in the Guardian's leading article on Tuesday contains too much truth to be comfortably dismissed. It would, however, be dangerous to shift as effortlessly to the editorial's all too obvious solution of amalgamation. It would equally, and for similar reasons, be foolish to regard the splendid county election results as other than beneficial to the administration of our shires and offering the potential of building political success on top of electoral success.

It is not, of course, illegitimate to analyse, and to recommend with a view to

short term Alliance electoral success but the need is for a better understanding of the country's malaise and of the deliverability — let alone workability — of amalgamation. Our electoral system produces a "broad church" mass parties that are alliances of differing tendencies within them. To maximise a party's electoral appeal, its leadership is forced to pretend that it has uniformity rather than just unity.

It is plainly nonsense but to have all grimly assented to it over the years. The Alliance simply professes that an open alliance is preferable and matches reality. Amalgamation into a closed alliance is seductive, and may well have its immediate electoral benefits, but it would be a pretence and would be pandering to the traditional British vice of wanting politics without commitment or even any mental exercise.

The Guardian leader is

strangely blinkered in that it apparently sees the traditional political framework as immutable. Conservative and Labour parties inevitably do so — as vividly demonstrated by their arrogant response to the electors' wish to deny them total power in most county councils — but one expects more of the Guardian. One might reasonably hope that leader writers would at least take heed of their paper's own commentators. For instance, Hugo Young was much nearer the mark in writing, "... Britain is consumed by the politics of rancour but deprived of the politics of argument. It is not merely that there is no opposition to challenge the government. The situation is a much more scandalous indictment of politicians. Its chief characteristic is that no coherent body of thought or credible programme of action exists outside Thatcherism." (Guardian, December 31).

Banking after a single Alliance party hinders the development of that "body of thought." If a mechanistic solution to a political problem can produce electoral success, which I personally doubt, why look further?

The fact is that the "solution" would produce its own problems and would give rise to equal criticism. I can even now visualise Guardian leading articles, not to mention Hugo Young pieces, depicting the milk and water centrism of its inevitable style and calling for a radical focus on, and a deeper response to, Britain's formidable problems.

In any case, the "solution" looks only as far as the next General Election — the Alliance's "Becher's Brook" — as the leader writer puts it. The problem with the Grand National is that the course has to be negotiated twice for victory, and any stable that spends the

first part of the race deciding on the jockey's colours is going to fall long before Becher's. Far better to run two fit horses with two determined jockeys. The very process of trying to amalgamate two parties would occupy every waking hour for at least two years, and even the unnecessary effort to elect one David as leader of the Alliance would be a gift to our opponents. Imagine a six week campaign, similar to an American presidential primary. It would be a good clean fight — with no survivors.

The Alliance parties cannot avoid the problems faced by the electoral system which heavily favours the two class based parties. We in effect have the present French electoral system but without the first ballot. It is not at all surprising that we have kept competition for individual seats. It is amazing that in June 1983 the alliance had only three seats in

which its two parties both contested — the same number, in fact, in which Labour had two candidates. Given the unpalatable necessity of working the electoral system to add the "unnecessary" handicap of extra interparty competition.

Above all, Tuesday's leader ignores the processes of politics and devalues political thought. If the Alliance is to reap votes at the next General Election it must sow for commitment now. No doubt there is a substantial section of the electorate that will vote for moderation and against extremism. Personally I do not believe there is much more than the 25 per cent or so that we reached in February 1974 or June 1983, but I know of no substantial section of the electorate that will work day in and day out, whatever the conditions and the difficulties, for other than a deeply felt and keenly held ideal

and vision of society. The psychological evidence on the volatility of the Liberal vote in the past four General Elections is alarming but not inevitable. The counter evidence from a number of individual areas where there is an emphasis on political values and campaigning is of real commitment to the Liberal Movement. There is nothing intrinsically exclusive about either these areas or Liberal values but the acceptance of a non-political "solution" will inhibit their application elsewhere.

Labour and Conservative depend for their electoral success increasingly on class conflict and on a determination to use the powers of the state centrally and locally, to foster only that which is exclusive to their narrow political definition. Compare, for instance, the sad undermining of the NCC and the destruction of the GLC with the fact that it is two balanced councils, Brent and

Bradford, which have the highest proportion of voluntary sector schemes in this year's Urban Programme Submission.

There is no future in applying dogmatic ideologies of the nineteenth century to the problems of the approaching twenty-first. The need is for a progressive philosophy that emphasises the integrity and integration of the community, that rejects statism, distrusts hierarchies and central control, and which uses communal resources to enable individuals and groups to achieve their liberation in a variety of ways.

To seek salvation in rain-bow arithmetic or in a reliance on leadership is only for those who are not alert to the crucial issues of the day. With Yeats I believe that "only dead sticks can be tied into convenient bundles."

Michael Meadowcroft is Liberal MP for Leeds West.



Poling last week in Biddenden, Kent: a case of balance—or expediency? Picture by E. Hamilton-West

A hanging offence in the shires

BASIL JEUDA

IN MANY parts of England and Wales last week's county council election results were received with dismay by councillors and officers alike, and no more so than in those many shire counties which have been used to one party and which now found themselves "hung."

Of the 47 counties, 46 are now hung with no political group in overall control.

As someone that has been through the mill in Cheshire over the past four years, I would not wish a hung council on anyone, though procedures, principally a document entitled Conventions Regarding Relations Between The Political Parties Represented on the Council, were developed and the officers came to terms with the hung council and with the need to avoid chaos and anarchy.

Cheshire, between 1981 and 1985, had four different

political administrations hewn out of different political alliances and both councillors and officers with patience, tolerance and effort made it work whilst at the same time maintaining fundamental political differences.

The system had to cope with at any one time chairmen and vice-chairmen of committees from each of the political parties in any combination — and also cope with the briefing of political groups especially at budget time which led on one occasion to three separate budgets being prepared, one for each group. The main reason for securing stability in administration was the conventions document referred to earlier.

Without going too much into the details of this particular document some ideas

of the breadth of coverage can be best appreciated from the issues which it covered. First of all, there needed to be a definition of the governing party which was seen to be the party with the largest number of seats and the holder of the great majority of chairmanships and vice-chairmanships (for 24 years Labour, 13 years Conservative); there needed to be a definition of the leader of the governing party as chairman of the policy and resources committee was leader of the council.

Secondly, there needed to be a definition relating to the nomination by other parties of their spokesmen or sub-committee, and indeed recognition that the governing party might need to nominate a spokesman on a committee or sub-committee where it did not have the

chairmanship of such a committee.

Thirdly, there needed to be rules relating to the briefing of chairmen together with an indication that the chairmen have the discretion to invite the governing party's spokesmen to such briefings. In Cheshire the Liberals always invited the spokesmen of the other two parties to briefings relating to committees of which they held the chair.

Fourthly, arrangements had to be put in hand for the briefing of party groups, including the right of the governing party to request such a briefing and similarly the right of other political parties to request briefings.

Fifthly, there was the issue of other information for members. For example, where a chairman or vice-chairman asks a chief officer for information, that information would not normally be supplied to spokesmen of other parties; similarly, where a chief officer provides information on his own initiative then he has the discretion to provide such information to other parties.

Sixthly, rules needed to be established whereby official county council press statements could be made by the chairman of all committees, irrespective of their party political membership, relating to the council's policy. Facilities however were available for parties to send out their own press statements but at their own cost.

These were the rules in summary form signed by the

respective leaders of the three groups but they were never formally put to the county council. The fact that the rules were prepared in the first place is a tribute to the political skill and feel of Cheshire's chief executive, Mr Robin Wendt. In an article he wrote for Local Government Studies in May/June 1983 he commented as follows:

"In essence, working in a hung council puts a premium on the traditional qualities and skills of the public servant: accuracy and honesty in the presentation of information; objectivity and constructiveness in the proffering of advice; neutrality in the face of political conflict; patience and resilience when there is delay and frustration in decision making; integrity and mutual confidence and respect in relationships with politicians; and a sense of humour."

I would endorse that and add the word stamina.

One myth has to be exploded and it is put about by the Alliance that the rules were "balanced" — and therefore make "balanced" decisions. Our experience in Cheshire, and no doubt that of others elsewhere proves this to be a myth. For example, Liberal opposition to the building of a new mid-level bridge across the Manchester Ship Canal at Warrington was born out of the narrow political expediency to save a marginal Liberal seat rather than any objective assessment of professional opinion

and of the strong pleas of Warrington industry.

Again Liberal opposition to solving the Gypsy problem in the Congleton area was not based on high moral principles of "balance" or fairness, but on crude political expediency. The acid test of the Alliance's stance on balanced or hung councils could best be measured in say the Isle of Wight, or in the Devon situations — is it the Alliance's view that the IOW which is Liberal controlled would be better run if Labour had the balance of power and does it now think that Devon or Gloucestershire will now be better run because Labour has the balance of power as the smallest party?

Certainly the experience in Cheshire leads to the conclusion that from both the officers' and from the members' points of view, it is unrealistic to plan ahead for more than a few months. All concerned have to come to terms with this — and this short term planning horizon is on top of all the existing uncertainties of targets, penalties, and rate support grant changes, and the ever changing arrangements for capital expenditure allocations. All this leads to the inevitable conclusion that the case for a hung or balanced council is, in political and in managerial terms, not proven.

Basil Jeuda was until the recent county elections leader of the Labour group on Cheshire County Council. He is chairman of Cheshire Labour Party.

The dangers of punishing the solicitor

OUT OF COURT

Geoffrey Robertson

BRITISH justice appears sexist and hypocritical by branding the street prostitute a criminal while allowing her client to drive off without a stain on his character. At first blush the Sexual Offences Bill, which reaches its report stage in the Commons today, makes an even-handed adjustment by criminalising kerb-crawling males who "solicit a woman for the purpose of prostitution." But attempts to make people good by Act of Parliament are generally more difficult than moralising politicians like to admit, and this particular legislation poses grave threats to civil liberties.

minutes — may amount to "just" having alighted? Law teachers will delight in formulating their students with fresh problems of statutory construction: can you be guilty of soliciting from a truck, a taxi, a C8, or a Clapham omnibus?

But much more important is the question of how the new law will be enforced on the streets and in the courts. The offence is committed by one single act of solicitation: the driver who slows down and asks a woman "how much?" is guilty, whether or not she is in fact a prostitute. If the address is not a prostitute, and is sufficiently quick-witted to take down the car number and sufficiently outraged to testify, well and good: the occasional pest may be caught, and the cross-examination of the complainant, while it may suggest she is hard of hearing, is unlikely to probe her moral character. If the kerb crawler has solicited a prostitute, of course, then she is hardly likely to complain to the police.

It follows that most cases will be brought as a result of police action, without corroborative civilian evidence. There is no right to jury trial, and magistrates will be invited to draw the inference of guilt from police observations. The fact that a car is seen to slow down in an area frequented by prostitutes, and words exchanged with a woman on the footpath, will be enough to amount to a prima facie case, and call for the driver to make his explanations — perhaps of a quite innocent request for directions — before smirking reporters in open court.

The danger of conviction of the innocent is considerable, but the damage will be done by the reputation of innocent men whose acquittals are accompanied by sensational publicity in their local newspapers. (It is perhaps too much to hope that the next person prosecuted under the new law will be an MP who has stopped his car to ask a young woman the way to a constituency function.)

But there is an easier method for police to be sure of obtaining convictions, which relies entirely on public-spirited complainants or the uncertainties of observation evidence. It is to use police women and police informers as decoys to entrap the motorists who are minded (perhaps only after setting eyes on the decoy) to ask for sex. The use of plainclothes policemen as "agents provocateurs" on city streets is a most unattractive feature. Law enforcement in some American states, and in 1982 the Police Advisory Committee on Sexual Offences warned that the difficulties of obtaining evidence for such an offence might make it a common practice here.

If Parliament is bent on creating this new crime it should at least have sufficient regard for civil liberties to add an entrapment defence, entitling the motorist to an acquittal if he can show that his solicitation would not have been made without the encouragement by dress, deportment, gesture or words — from a police agent.

The Sexual Offences Bill is yet another example of Parliament's current contempt for trial by jury. Any crime which puts reputation seriously at stake, and is likely to involve assessment of police credibility should on principle be triable by jury rather than by magistrates or lay justices. Although the penalty for this offence must be minor, specific provision could and should have been made for a defendant to elect jury trial. Refusal to countenance this course is the best indication of Parliament's lack of confidence in the virtue of its own justice.

Geoffrey Robertson is a barrister and editor of the Out of Court column.

When the game changes, so does the guide to form

David McKie

NEWSPAPERS last weekend were packed with projections attempting to show what would happen at the next general election if the voting mirrored the pattern of the county council results. It's an unrealistic exercise, of course. Large areas of the country were excluded from Thursday's voting. The turnout was far lower than it would be at a general election. And the issues being decided were, ostensibly at least, entirely different. And in any case, virtually anything — well, not perhaps a second Falklands war, but very nearly anything — could happen between Mrs Thatcher give the starting signal.

But in one respect this sudden outbreak of estimates is a healthy development. It's a sign that people are adjusting to life in a three-dimensional party system. There was a time when you had only to glance at the polls as you would at the football results to see who was pat-

tern would be disrupted by a surge in Liberal support, but only two contenders in the race, and the one which was ahead was marked down for outright victory.

Nowadays, with the Alliance settled at around 25 per cent of the popular vote, predictions are much more awkward. The last Guardian/Morplan inde, for instance, gave Labour 38 per cent of the vote. The local elections told much the same story.

Is that good or bad for Labour? Mr Kinnoch and his colleagues think it's pretty good, and most of last weekend's independent experts agree that it would put Labour only just short of an overall majority.

Yet it's actually much in line with the share of the national vote which Labour took in 1979, when it was swept out of office on the wrong end of the biggest electoral support which spelled disaster six years ago. In other words, now qualifies in a three-dimensional world, as success.

The concept of "swing" which has served us well for so long, is also showing its age in the new political

climate. Swing is essentially an invariable shorthand formula for measuring the relative success and failure of two competing parties.

There are two ways of computing it. The first is the average of one party's gain and another's loss. If the Conservatives go up six percentage points and Labour goes down four, you add six to four, divide by two, and arrive at a swing of 5 per cent. Alternatively you may be dealing with a result in which both main parties have lost ground. In this case, the Conservatives are 2 points down, Labour are 4 points down and the Liberals are up by 6. In this case you take the difference between the losses of the two main

parties and divide that by two. In the case of the Conservatives, you lost more, to the Conservatives, who lost less, of one per cent.

In a stable two-dimensional era you could make a good guess, on the basis of such swing calculations, at how many seats would change hands between Labour and the Conservatives on the basis of a given swing — if only by laboriously counting the marginals where existing majorities would be destroyed by the level of swing you were assuming. But in the new three-dimensional world it is nothing like so simple.

Take, for instance, a six per cent swing from Conser-

vative to Labour. Where would that leave the parties at the next election? The short answer to that is: almost anywhere. If it meant a straight six per cent switch of votes from Conservative to Labour (Conservatives minus six, Labour plus six — average six), the Conservatives could hope to retain an overall majority, even if it were only one. Labour would take about 275 seats and the Alliance around 28.

But suppose the Conservative vote fell by eight points, with Labour and the Alliance both four points up on the 1983 election. This is still, in theory, a six per cent swing from Conservative to Labour (minus eight, plus four = average six). But now, according to my three dimensional swingometer, the Conservative strength is down to around 310. Labour has around 270 seats, and the Alliance has 46; enough for a workable pact with the Conservatives, but not enough for a joint working majority with Labour.

Or to take an admittedly extreme example: assume that the Conservative vote is 10 points down on 1983,

Labour's is two points up, and the Alliance is up by eight. That is still, in theory, a six per cent swing from Conservative to Labour (minus ten, plus two = average six) but now the Conservatives have around 275 seats, Labour around 260, and the Alliance (which by capturing seats from Labour as well as from the Tories) has over 90. Dr Owen has achieved his dream of holding the balance.

None of which, of course, proves anything at all about the next election. None of it may ever happen. But at least it may help to demonstrate the extraordinary uncertainties and complexities — and at some levels of vote, the scope for grotesque electoral injustice — which come from operating what is philosophically a two-party system in a three-party world.

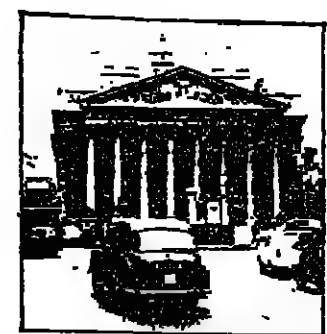
And it also suggests that, for all their frailty and inability to sort out electoral projections which flowered so profusely last weekend, the rough-and-ready guide to elucidating what the polls are trying to tell us

The Guardian Opinion Poll Accumulator

Running average of last five opinion polls up to:

	CON	LAB	SDL	Lead
end October	43	35	21	CON 8
end November	44	34	21	CON 10
end December	42	33	23	CON 9
end January	41	33	24	CON 8
end February	38	36	25	CON 2
end March	35	38	25	LAB 2
end April	35	38	25	LAB 2

Fiat and Ford...there is certainly a romance but no wedding bells just yet



NOTEBOOK

Edited by
Hamish McRae

ITALY is agog with the notion that Fiat might be merging with Ford. The companies agree that they are having talks but won't explain what they are about. Their reticence has encouraged the Italian scribes to

redouble their efforts to marry the two. That is the story so far, and there is a simple, logical, single sentence conclusion to the chapter. It would be that the two companies are collaborating in some aspect of development, like common floor-plans, engines or transmissions. Given the enormous cost of developing new products, and the similar size of the main European producers, joint development is the only sensible way forward in the European market.

The Japanese manage to produce completely new cars, not just new engines or new bodies, in ever shorter time-scales. But the European producers, with six of them (Fiat, Ford, GM, Peugeot, Citroën, VW and Renault) all with some 12 per cent of the market, cannot afford the luxuries that is possible in the US domestic market, or in Japan.

So it would be logical for any two of these six to try to cut development costs. It is logical too, for Ford and

Fiat to join together because by the standards of the highly competitive EEC countries, they do not compete very directly.

Sure, they produce a not dissimilar range of cars, with Fiat skewed only slightly towards the small end, but they sell them in rather different markets. Fiat does not do well in Northern Europe; Ford does not do well in the Mediterranean region.

But in the end there will have to be substantial rationalisation of European car capacity. In the end, mergers look inevitable. And that is why the Fiat/Ford talks have a tantalising air: if not now, maybe later?

Chart miss

A SUDDEN plunge in the dollar took place yesterday, carrying it down to DM 3.1225 and pushing the pound up more than 3 cents to \$1.2360.

Considered reaction to the latest statement by Paul Volcker? Some new US eco-

nomics indicators showing even slower growth? Another safe by the President?

Actually, no. In so far as there was any sensible explanation of the unexplained (see next note), it was that the dollar, which had previously been strengthening, just failed to cross the DM3.20 point on the charts. This failure is apparently of significance to the chartist set, and accordingly the currency fell back again. So there.

More interesting, in a way, is the dog that hasn't barked: the way the British markets have managed to take these awful money supply figures in their stride, without the carnage in the gilt market that might have been expected.

Next month's money supply figures will receive considerable help not just from any unwinding of those special factors which supposedly contributed to last month's surge in bank borrowing. They will also be helped by the capital-raising

activities of the banks themselves. These new floating notes count as net non-deposit liabilities in the money figures. The effect will be to transfer a block of roughly £1 billion out of sterling M3. Since the pool of sterling M3 is over £100 billion, that means that — other things being equal — money supply will be reduced by nearly 1 per cent. It may not turn out as simple as that, but you can see why the Bank of England is so keen on the method the banks have chosen to boost their capital ratios.

Helpful idea

A COMMONS committee has just been set up to look at the misalignment of the dollar and the actions which should be taken both nationally and internationally to deal with it.

Such a sweeping brief does rather raise the retort that if they can explain why the dollar has been so strong,

they will have done better than the entire international financial community. But it is a helpful idea, none the less.

This is because discussion of exchange policy (such as it is) has for too long been stifled by a set of practices which date back to the days of the fixed exchange rate, painfully defended by intervention by the Bank of England.

For example, even now we cannot get a precise figure of Bank intervention in the currency markets, though the case for such secrecy died long ago. You could justify perhaps, some delay in publishing such figures on the grounds that the market should be kept guessing; but not the obsessive secrecy that still surrounds the matter.

Take another example. It would be very helpful to know what assumption the Treasury makes on the exchange rate and the oil price in its calculations of likely revenue from oil.

It would not tell the mar-

ket anything. It could not reasonably guess. But it would remove, or rather clarify, one uncertainty in public finances, without putting HMG to any particular disadvantage.

If the committee does manage to rubbish a bit of the "state secret" aspect of exchange rate policy, it will have done a useful job — and if it discovers why exchange rates move in the way they do, its members can doubtless pick up a few lucrative consultancies in the City to boot.

Brokers' delight

TWAS a famous victory: the Stock Exchange Council's change of heart over the share ceiling and the new top of shares will give heart to the "medium-sized" and small firms.

For a market which prides itself on dealing skills it always appeared odd that the price of individual members' shares should not be left to market forces. Obviously, the

exchange had to pacify the Bank of England that the costs of entry for outsiders would not be too great. But it always seemed extremely unlikely that share prices could soar to such heights that anybody who was committed to trading would be put off. After all, think what some banks have paid for second-line brokers.

Many of the members of the smaller firms who have successfully led the lobby have been motivated by money. But they also appreciated that £100,000 or rather £100,000 for a new outsider — was hardly a barrier.

Whether the changes are enough to persuade members to carry the crucial vote is another matter. But the danger is now that if they throw out the new proposals the council could very easily come ahead with the rule changes. This would leave members for the time being with worthless 5p shares — and not a penny in their pockets. The council writ now looks secure.

Contract yet to be ratified but remaining jobs look safe

Bangkok throws £385 m lifeline to Leyland Bus

By David Simpson, Business Correspondent
BL's struggling Leyland Bus subsidiary was yesterday thrown an invaluable lifeline when it was given notice of a £385 million contract from Thailand to re-equip Bangkok's bus fleet.

The Bangkok Mass Transit Authority announced it had chosen a Leyland-Bus consortium to supply 4,000 new vehicles and restructure the city's transport system over the next five years.

Leyland Bus adopted a more cautious attitude to the contract, pointing out that it was still a matter for negotiation and was unlikely to be formally awarded until October or November. If and when the details of the contract are agreed, it must still be endorsed by the Thai government.

But barring disaster, it does appear that Leyland, which tendered for the contract last year in competition with four other bidders from Europe and Japan, is well down the path to gaining its largest-ever order for buses.

Leyland's partners in the consortium are the National Bus Company, due to be privatised this year, and the London-based consultants, MVA, reflecting the fact that the contract is not only for the supply of vehicles but includes building maintenance depots, establishing a training programme, and reorganising the transit authority's management structure.

On the vehicle side, Leyland will be expected to provide 4,000 ordinary and air-conditioned buses, including 1,800 double-deckers.

A Leyland spokesman said yesterday that it was impossible to state what the Bangkok contract would ultimately mean in employment terms until it has been ratified, but that it would certainly guarantee security for the company's remaining 3,000 work force at three plants, near Preston, in Worthington and in Lowestoft.

Over the last five years, a collapse in UK demand for buses has led to the company cutting its employee level from 8,000 workers, and there have been no signs recently of any recovery in the domestic market.

The UK bus market overall has fallen by half since 1980, with the effects of the general recession compounded first by cuts in public spending and then most recently by the Transport Bill, which has led local authorities to defer re-equipping or extending their fleets.

Leyland's own share of the declining market slipped badly last year, from 49.7 per cent in 1983 to 46.6 per cent, and the company incurred a substantial loss, having clawed its way back to profitability only the previous year. All told, Leyland Vehicles, which incorporates Leyland Bus, recorded a \$81 million operating loss last year.

SE members win share rule concessions

By Margaret Pagano, City Correspondent

Stock Exchange members have won the battle to have the controversial £10,000 ceiling on their shares scrapped and the proposed sale of new shares at £3,000 each in the exchange withdrawn.

This is a victory for members of the small to medium sized stockbroking firms who have objected to these two key proposals ever since they were outlined in the exchange's white paper, published in March.

The value of the new shares will be left to market forces of supply and demand. Members will be told of the concessions in a letter sent to them today by Sir Nicholas

Goodison, the exchange's chairman. The letter also says that members of the smaller firms, with fewer than 10 partners, will not need to apply to the council for dispensation from the proposed rule requiring existing firms to hold 50 shares. Sir Nicholas admits in the letter that the white paper's "dispensation" proposal had been badly worded and confirmed that members will need only their present one-share unit, which is to be split into five.

The council hopes that these concessions will be enough to appease members who will have to vote on the new membership rule changes on June 14.

Wellcome's Vane quits

By James Ertchmann, Chemicals Correspondent

Sir John Vane, the Nobel Prize winning research director of the Wellcome pharmaceutical group, has decided to resign and will leave the company in September.

His departure from the company after 12 years has not been fully explained, but it just came as an enormous blow to Wellcome which has lost its two leading research scientists within a year. Sir James Black, who discovered the two most profit-

able drugs in the world, resigned as Wellcome's director of therapeutic research in June, 1984. He has since returned to the academic world.

It is understood that Sir John, who is 58, has also achieved working for another drug company and will return to academic life. His research has been in the area of how aspirin really works, which was won him the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1982, was begun when he was a professor of pharmacology at the Royal College of Surgeons in London.



Lord Camoys

Camoys calls for ban

By Margaret Pagano

LORD Camoys, vice chairman of Barclays Merchant Bank, yesterday urged the Government to act immediately to stop all off-market trading by non-Stock Exchange members.

He said the Government should consider legislation or a penal tax on all foreign and UK institutions which are making markets outside the Exchange. "If the Government really cared about investor protection and the competitiveness of London as an international market then it should stop all the firms which are trading outside. It is idle, sloppy thinking to believe that London's doors can be opened without the danger of the central market fragmenting," he said. "Everyone should be able to compete on an equal footing."

All politicians should be concerned that the Stock Exchange could bring forward big bang if it believes that the danger becomes too great," he added. "Investors are not being protected." Lord Camoys is also chief executive of the Barclays de Zoete Wedd group, one of the largest securities merchant banking groups to be created in the City's revolution.

So far the Government has taken little notice of the Stock Exchange's threats that unless it moves swiftly to prevent further off-market trading the Exchange could bring forward the big bang timetable.

But pressure within the Exchange is mounting, and it could only take the entry of another major financial institution, such as the giant US broking houses, for it to carry out its threat.

Lord Camoys said the planned merger between the three groups, which will leave de Zoete and Wedd partners with a 25 per cent stake, is moving fast.

Obstacles on Royal's path to recovery

By Mary Brader

Earthquakes in Chile, hailstorms in Australia, and a lot of car crashes in the UK have thrown Royal Insurance off its expected recovery path in the opening three months of 1985.

The group yesterday unveiled losses of £37.7 million for the first quarter, up from £20.4 million last year. Underwriting results deteriorated in every single area of the group's general insurance business, which produced an overall loss of £49 million against £13.2 million last year. Life profits were £5.9 million.

The chief executive, Mr Alan Horsford, blamed weather losses of £50 million as well as the continuing inadequacy of many prices. Big price increases across the range of Royal's portfolio are being put through, and Mr Horsford is still confident that Royal will start to show better results in the final quarter of 1985 and certainly in 1986, after a disastrous year in 1984.

UK motor premiums are

being increased to meet a largely unexplained escalation of claims. Royal UK losses rose from £7.9 million to £11.2 million, partly reflecting a 12.5 per cent jump in motor claims, and some motorists will be facing 13 per cent higher premiums as a result. A May rate increase averaging six per cent was brought forward to March, and another of about seven per cent for comparative higher risk drivers will follow on the first of next month.

Bad results from Australia and the international division reduced one of the group's main profit centres. Like bush fires, hailstorms, and a Chilean earthquake, which added nearly £2 million to losses alone, Canada continues to suffer from the need to increase reserves against court awards for liability cases, and losses have increased by £5 million.

Royal shares jumped 23p to 61p as the City looked for a return to profits of perhaps £40 million this year despite the initial setback.

Intasun in £100m deal with Ramada

By Geoffrey Gibbs

Mr Harry Goodman's Intasun Leisure Move is making a determined move into the buoyant UK hotels market by joining forces with the American hotels combine Ramada.

The two companies yesterday announced the formation of a joint venture company with £100 million to invest in up to 10 hotels in London and the provinces over the next four years.

The alliance is a further mark of the widespread confidence being expressed in the mark of the widespread confidence being expressed in the UK hotels industry, particularly in London. Earlier this month, Holiday Inns, the world's largest hotels group, unveiled a planned £160 million UK investment as part of a huge European expansion programme.

Intasun's link up with Ramada comes only six months after the group was thwarted in a bid for the Comfort Ho-

tel chain and is consistent with its policy of diversifying away from reliance on the British package holidays markets.

At present, Intasun's direct involvement in the hotels business is confined to the 550 room Barbican City Hotel in London, acquired in March for £7.5 million. But the group is also acquiring two hotels in Majorca as part of the Global holidays takeover and has linked with Ladbrooks to establish resort hotels in the Mediterranean.

Mr Goodman said the joint venture company — expected to be 80 per cent owned by Intasun — hoped to announce its first purchase this summer. Intasun is experiencing a "mad rush of late bookings" for the summer season and expects to end the year with a marginal improvement in earnings, the directors said yesterday. Current bookings are down 10 per cent compared with the industry figure of 25 per cent.

Posgate's 'facetious note'

By Mary Brader

A note from the Lloyd's underwriter, Mr Ian Posgate, to Mr Ken Grob asking for a picture was a "facetious remark" with no serious intent, Mr Posgate claimed yesterday.

The memo was raised by counsel for Lloyd's on the third day of the appeal hearing against findings by Lloyd's disciplinary committee that Mr Posgate should be expelled

from the insurance market for impropriety.

Mr Peter Scott, QC for Lloyd's, said gifts of a Picasso painting worth £74,000 and a credit in a Swiss bank to Mr Posgate were of a size and given in circumstances which meant they were not "just the equivalent of a gold watch for services rendered". Lloyd's said they were intended to influence Mr Posgate's underwriting.

Murdoch to sell papers in US for TV empire

From Alex Brummer in Washington

The publisher, Mr Rupert Murdoch, yesterday signalled that he intends to sell his two largest newspapers in the United States, the New York Post and the Chicago Sun Times, to meet Federal requirements which prevent him owning television stations and newspapers in the same city.

An adviser to Mr Murdoch, Mr Howard Rubenstein, said that Mr Murdoch "would not be seeking a waiver from the Federal Communications Commission which might allow him to maintain control of both the TV and newspaper interests."

Mr Rubenstein also said that Mr Murdoch was "preparing his application for American citizenship in the normal way" and "rejected suggestions that the Australian publisher would seek to expedite the process. The FCC basically insists that major television stations in American hands."

The decision to sell his major big city newspapers comes less than a week after the publisher and his Twentieth Century Fox partner, Mr Marvin Davis, paid some \$2 billion for six television stations divested by the Multimedia Group. He has agreed to sell one of the stations to the Hearst newspaper group for \$450 million.

But in taking on the Multimedia stations Mr Murdoch is also assuming a heavy debt burden — in the form of "junk" bonds which were used by Multimedia's management to take the firm private last year. Analysts believe that among the reasons for Mr Murdoch's decision to sell the two newspapers and the Village Voice magazine is the need to raise cash to reduce the debt burden which he has taken on with his two most recent purchases — Twentieth Century Fox and Multimedia.

Neither the New York or Chicago newspapers are

thought to be money spinners. The sensational New York Post is believed to be losing up to \$10 million a year and the Chicago Sun Times — which is involved in an expensive circulation war with the Chicago Tribune — is reportedly only marginally profitable.

The Anglo-French financier, Sir James Goldsmith, has stepped up his pressure on the Crown-Zellerbach paper group with the purchase of a further 10 per cent stake in the company at a value of about \$119 million. There was some speculation that the shares had been bought from Mr Ivan Boesky, the famous Wall Street arbitrageur.

The new purchase raises Sir James's holding to 19.5 per cent. Sir James was quoted as saying yesterday that he favoured a Crown-Zellerbach plan to restructure the firm that would spin-off its timber and plastics arms placing them in separate companies.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stores' defence

THE Debenhams chairman, Mr Robert Thornton, is planning a pre-emptive strike against rumoured attempts to takeover the stores group. Debenhams is negotiating a big acquisition which it hopes will thwart a hostile bid. Discussions are well advanced and Mr Thornton hopes to announce a deal in the next few weeks. Details page 23.

APPLICATION lists for the £800 million offering of shares on British Aerospace close this morning.

THERE was a sharp upturn in the rate of UK company failures last month, the credit insurance company, Trade Indemnity, reported yesterday, with 331 businesses going bankrupt, 12.2 per cent more than in April last year. This takes the total insolvencies so far in 1985 to a level 5.4 per cent higher than over the first four months of 1984.

THIS month many banks have abandoned the free Eurocheque encashment card in favour of the uniform Eurocheque, for which they charge. Weekend Money tomorrow explains which bank is offering what, and the advantages of the new scheme.

Minister is twisting the statistics on jobs, says Labour

By David Simpson and Michael Smith

Claims by the Employment Secretary, Mr Tom King, that unemployment levels owe much to the record size of the UK workforce, were immediately "challenged" yesterday by the Shadow employment

spokesman, Mr John Prescott, who accused the government of twisting statistics to excuse its failure to create new jobs.

Mr Prescott's charges form a prelude to a renewed attack on the government's economic policies which Labour is to mount next week, through a Commons debate on the decline of Britain's manufacturing industries.

Speaking at an advertising awards lunch, Mr King said that preliminary indications showed that the labour force rose in the year to June, 1984, by 430,000 people, to a record of 26,450,000.

This increase was the largest since records began in 1971. "These figures show the size of the challenge we face in bringing down unemployment."

Although the number of jobs in the economy is rising rapidly, by more than a third of a million since 1983, we need to progress even faster if we are to cope with the remarkable rise in people joining the labour market."

Mr Prescott poured scorn on Mr King's arguments, and in a letter sent last night to the Employment Secretary, points out that 1984 was the first year in which the size of the

labour force rose since the Tories came to power in 1979. During the 1974/79 Labour Government, Mr Prescott wrote, the size of the labour force rose by 882,000 while between 1980 and 1983, it fell by almost 200,000 people. Over the same period, he adds, unemployment doubled.

"I would be grateful for your observations on these figures as the increasingly loose use of statistics by members of the government of which your speech today is just the latest example can so easily be confused with facts."

The lead in next week's debate will be taken by the Opposition Trade and Industry spokesman, Mr John Smith, who will base his assault on the UK's £4 billion trade deficit in manufactured goods.

Labour is likely to emphasise the crucial importance of a strong manufacturing base to create long-term wealth and provide the source of business for many new jobs in the service industries.

Under intense attack recently for failing to appreciate the necessity of maintaining a manufacturing base and for placing too much reliance upon the expansion of service industries, the GEC chief, Lord Weinstock, and the ICI chairman, Mr John Harvey-Jones, recently dismissed as "absolute rubbish" government beliefs that the growth of service industries would outpace the decline in manufacturing industry.

The Royal Bank of Scotland Group plc

INTERIM RESULTS: PRE-TAX PROFITS UP 34%

SUMMARY OF KEY FIGURES (Unaudited)	9 months ended	6 months ended	12 months ended
	31.3.85	31.3.84	30.8.84
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£75.9m	£56.8m	£131.3m
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS	£42.1m	£38.1m	£97.6m
EARNINGS PER 25p ORDINARY SHARE	17.8p	16.1p	32.0p
DIVIDEND PER 25p ORDINARY SHARE	3.5p	3.3p	8.5p

Over the past three years we have made excellent progress towards the merger of our two banks which we hope will take effect on 30 September this year. In addition we have

- achieved a major increase in our customer base
- acquired the Charterhouse Group
- launched a car insurance service

We are confident that the earnings of the new Royal Bank of Scotland should continue to improve in the future.

Michael Herries
Chairman

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc Williams & Glyn's Bank plc



Imperial
Chemical
Industries
PLC

ANNOUNCEMENT

It has come to our notice that unsolicited invitations to invest in a Canadian company named "ICI Industrial Minerals Limited" are being distributed in the UK by a firm known as "B.A. Investment Advisory Services", of Amsterdam, Holland.

We wish to make it known that "ICI Industrial Minerals Limited" has no connection whatsoever with Imperial Chemical Industries PLC or any of its subsidiaries.

P. S. G. Fint
Secretary
Imperial Chemical Industries PLC
Middlesbrough, Cleveland

WE'RE THE POWER BEHIND THE SMALLER BUSINESS.

These smaller businesses all have one thing
in common.

They're going places. Some quickly. Some
not quite so quickly.

But they're all going places. With a little bit
of help from us at 3i.

We've always had time and money for the
man who has the acumen and ambition to build
a successful business.

He is the kind of man who is prepared to
stand or fall by his own judgement. Because
he believes in his ability.

And we have more experience in recognising
the ability of entrepreneurs than anyone else.

Words? No, action.

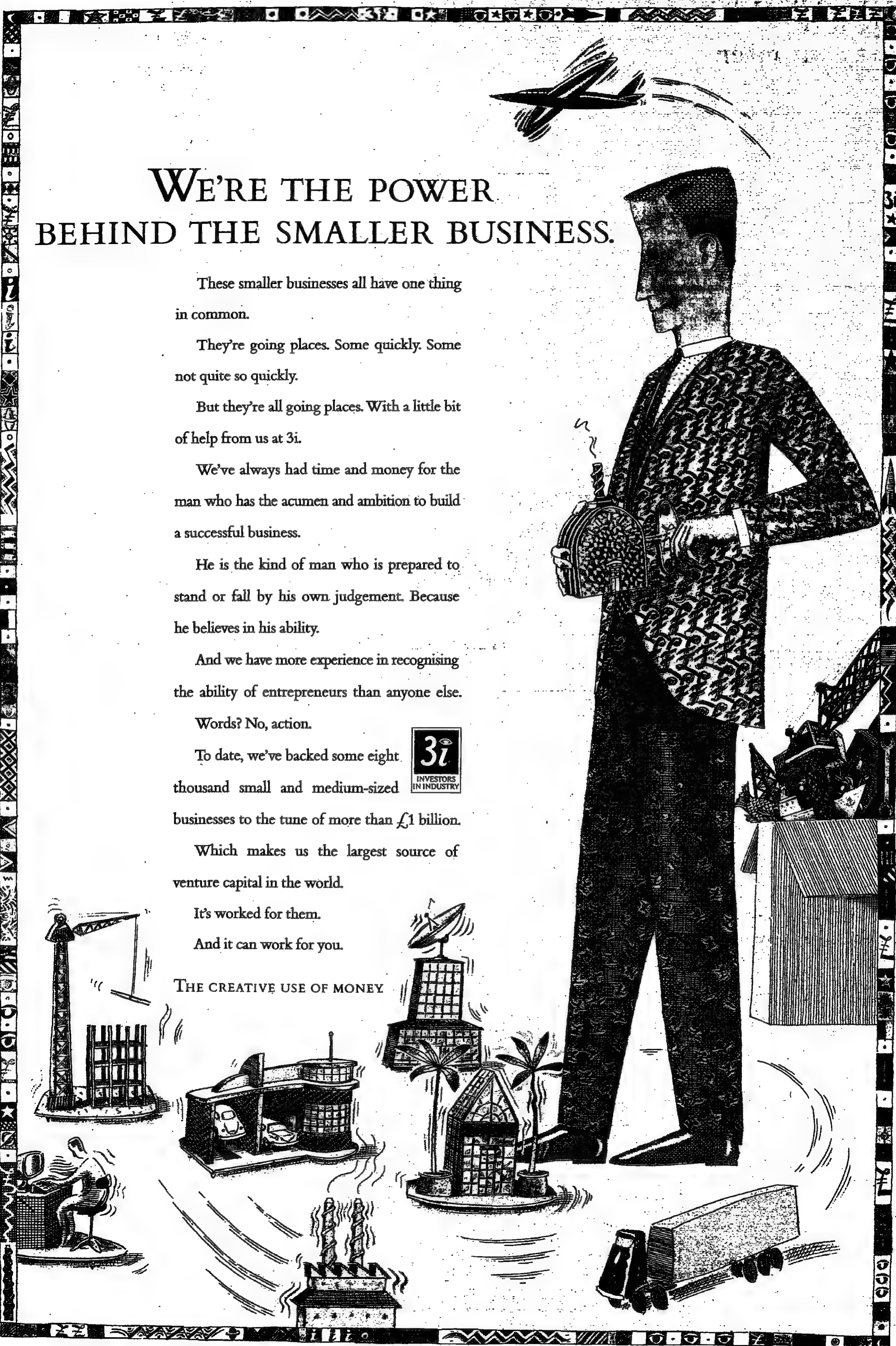
To date, we've backed some eight
thousand small and medium-sized
businesses to the tune of more than £1 billion.

Which makes us the largest source of
venture capital in the world.

It's worked for them.

And it can work for you.

THE CREATIVE USE OF MONEY



Britain may join Japan on new computer

By Peter Large

Technology Correspondent

An official British delegation is to spend next week in Tokyo beginning negotiations which could lead to an Anglo-Japanese partnership — inevitably aimed against the United States — in a crucial area of 1990s technology.

They will be discussing a Japanese request for the best nations to join in developing the fifth generation of computers. The aim of the competing fifth generation research in the US, Japan, and Britain is to create computers not merely hundreds of times more powerful than today's but capable of coping with human-style reasoning.

The Japanese hope is that Britain will supply the software — Japan's weak point — while the Japanese research teams concentrate on the hardware design.

Mr Brian Oakley, director of Britain's fifth generation programme, the Government's £350 million Alvey project, was cautious yesterday about the prospects, but emphasised that the possibility of collaboration depended on solid agreement being reached on how to share the results.

The talks will not be top level at this stage. The UK Government will be led by Mr Roger Hird, the Alvey project's administration director, and the industrial side by Mr Derek MacLachlan, ICL's head of group technical strategy.

Other firms represented include British Telecom, Thorn EMI, and the software company SDL. But Britain's biggest electronics groups, GEC

and Plessey, are not included.

Mr Derek Roberts, GEC's technical director, said yesterday that GEC was all for free exchange of academic research, "but this sort of thing I don't call partnership." He thought it could only result in British software being used to sell Japanese products. The talks will involve not only the Japanese Industry Ministry, MITI, but all the big six Japanese technology firms as well.

If the talks did eventually lead to solid agreement, the political implications would, of course, be deep. Even just on the commercial front, as Mr Hird said yesterday, "If anyone is to be a victim of this sort of deal, it would be IBM — though that's not a 'sanit'." (The UK subsidiary of IBM is included in Alvey work).

At least it is clear that the Japanese are keen. Long before the Japanese government's official fifth generation programme was launched in April 1982, they had been seeking access to Britain's software expertise. Once the Alvey project began, they asked again — but saying that they only wanted to talk to British academics, not British firms.

They claimed that their research project is not commercially based, whereas the Alvey programme depends on close collaboration between consortia of firms and university research teams.

Therefore, they have made a concession in accepting a response to their invitation that is based on the Government's official Alvey team. And to emphasise that point, the British delegation includes no academics.

Fowler will sweeten the pill for doctors

James Erlichman on government's volte face on banned drugs

THE drugs industry in Britain cannot quite believe its luck and is unable to decide this week whether first to kiss a few influential doctors or to caress its own wallet.

Only a month after its noisy public conception, the limited list banning more than 2,000 drugs from NHS prescription, may prove stillborn.

The Health Secretary, Mr Norman Fowler, who so recently championed the limited list as a model of efficiency and economy, is now offering doctors the backdoor chance to prescribe any banned drugs they like. The appeals procedure they must follow is so hassle-free that it looks positively designed to encourage doctors to return to their old prescribing habits.

A GP needs now only to decide in his own mind that a banned drug is best for a patient, write out a NHS prescription, and explain his decision, in the briefest terms, after the event. Sitting in judgment upon his prescribing habits will be a local committee of his own peers (four GPs and two hospital doctors).

This panel, which will be chosen by doctors themselves, will have no obligation to explain or even communicate their judgment to Mr Fowler's men at the ministry. All will be done behind the closed doors of the consulting room.

"What incentive will these men have to challenge the prescribing habits of one of

their friends," said one London consultant. "Even the hospital doctors on the committee, who might support the limited list, will be mindful that they rely on the GPs they judge for future patient referrals."

Powerful lobbying pressure from the medical profession alone explains the discreet, but near complete, volte face of Mr Fowler. The powerful drug industry, in this case, had been impotent. The vitriolic advertising campaign it waged against the limited list only enraged the govern-

ment's prescribing doctors, who generate 80 per cent of the industry's £1.6 billion sales, but mistrust its profit motive. Drug industry reps, who knock on surgery doors, will have to be coached toward subtle ways of convincing GPs to ignore the limited list in the interests of their patients.

The government has been forced to climb down because its motives for introducing the limited list were always flawed.

The government has been forced to climb down because its motives for introducing the limited list were always flawed.

ment. What the drug industry failed to achieve with its blunderbuss techniques, the doctors have quietly done with a scalpel.

This explains why the drugs industry has adopted a frozen pose of gleeful but profound silence since the appeals procedure was offered to the doctors.

It would also raise the

limited list brings great strides in sound, scientific prescribing because it forces doctors to think carefully before they tell the patient to swallow. But the government was really more interested in taking a public poke at drug industry profits than it was in the finer arguments of pharmacology.

The backdoor appeals concession on offer to doctors serves no one. It is an old fashioned and fudged British compromise. It will erode the already modest savings that the limited list might have achieved. Busy doctors will have to indulge in a bit more bureaucracy to avoid the searching task of challenging their prescribing habits of a lifetime. And the

drug industry, which would have been weaned away from dependence on overly promoted, off-patent wares, will not now have to search as hard to find profit from real therapeutic breakthroughs of the future.

Admittedly, some companies like the Swiss giant, Hoffmann-La Roche, will not gain much from the new concessions. Roche is best known for its over-priced, out-of-patent and now blacklisted tranquillisers, Valium and Librium. Since much cheaper and equivalent generic versions of the drugs have existed for years, it is hard to imagine even the most supine local appeals panel agreeing to their continued use by doctors.

More likely to benefit are companies like the US firms, Upjohn and Wyeth, whose banned tranquillisers do, in the eyes of some GPs, have genuine if slight advantages over the generic drugs on the Department of Health's approved list.

One drug company admitted that Mr Fowler's concessions had put the industry into a real profit-crunching quandary. Since the limited list came into force on April 1 many companies have slashed the price, and launched advertising campaigns to promote the sale of banned over-the-counter products directly to the customer.

The real power of the doctors' lobby in forcing Mr Fowler to back down is still something of a mystery. The



Mr Norman Fowler: a backward step

British Medical Association successfully organised backbench Tory MPs who threatened a revolt against the limited list. And we now know that their protest was defused after the BMA got Mr Fowler, in confidential meetings late in March, to make his promise of an appeals procedure.

The BMA also threatened to drag Mr Fowler and the

DHSS through the courts, arguing that a judicial review would prove that the very idea of a limited list was illegal.

Squeezed between the two senior professions, Mr Fowler probably thought it prudent to take a backward step. Or you could say that even ministers, with trousers down and told to cough, can be made to listen.

UK falls behind in banking league

By Peter Rodgers

City Editor

British banks' share of the international banking business is only fourth in the international league table, behind the US, Japan and even France, in spite of London's position as the biggest banking centre. The British banks' share also declined last year and on one method of counting Japan is now the biggest international bank lender after aggressively grabbing market share.

Figures published today by the Bank for International Settlements for the first time give a detailed breakdown of international banking markets by country of ownership of the banks concerned. Previous analyses have shown that London is the biggest international banking centre with a quarter of the entire worldwide business. But a large part of this is done by offshoots of foreign banks.

The figures also show that Japanese banks rapidly increased their share of business last year. Although the total figures for bank lending put the US at the head of the league table with Japan a little behind, the Japanese may in fact have become the largest international bank lender if deals between foreign affiliates of individual banks are excluded.

The BIS, the bank run by central banks, says that because of the large amount of business shown in the figures between subsidiaries of US banks around the world, Japan's international loans in December 1984 were "as large as, or slightly larger than, those of US banks."

But on the total lending figures, the US has \$615 billion

or 28 per cent of the business, Japan has 23.5 per cent, French banks have 8 per cent, British banks have 7 per cent and German banks have 6.5 per cent.

Swiss banks have only 3.4 per cent but this excludes a large amount of trustee business which if counted in the figures would probably give them the same share as the UK banks, which had \$161 billion of international loans outstanding at the end of December.

This was a drop of nearly \$10 billion from a year earlier. Unlike the American banks, 39 per cent of whose loans were to affiliates, only 12 per cent of UK bank loans were to "related offices," says the BIS. The most intriguing aspect of the figures is the way that Japanese banks have raised their market share in international banking for all the world as if they were attacking the car or video recorder markets. Japanese banks raised their international lending \$63 billion to almost \$514 billion last year. Their share of the US bank market share fell over \$16 billion, mainly because of the crisis over Continental Illinois. Japan was particularly prominent in raising its loans to governments and to "non-bank" institutions, which includes companies.

The BIS says that US and on a smaller scale Swiss banks were able to attract ample deposits from outside the bank's core market. The US banks wished to renege to final borrowers. They therefore used the money to finance banks of other nationalities on the interbank market which re-lent the money to final users.

Exhibition centre boost Shares unfrozen

By Michael Smith

Industrial Editor

New plans have been unveiled to double the size of the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham at a cost of about £100 million over the next two decades.

The centre, which covers 125,000 square yards of floorspace for national and international exhibitions, generates about £80 million a year in revenue and supports almost 3,000 jobs in the blighted West Midlands.

The NEC chief executive, Terry Golding, said yesterday that he expected a further 4,000 jobs to be created over the next 20 years if the scheme to double the site went ahead. The proposal being approved by the NEC directors would add a further 125,000 square yards.

Outline planning has already been sought for the first phase of the development and it is hoped that the additional space will be available in 1988.

The NEC is pushing ahead with its large-scale expansion plans following an independent report forecasting "regular pressure for space in the coming years and steady growth in demand for exhibition space."

The report, by PA Management Consultants, recommended "urgent action" before 1988 when the NEC is expected to face an unprecedented sequence of major international trade fairs including the motor show.

The proposed expansion of the NEC also follows a record-breaking year for the organisation, which earned a best-ever operating profit of £1.8 million in 1984. The centre staged more exhibitions than ever before.

By Geoffrey Gibbs

The Scottish courts yesterday agreed to lift restrictions on a block of two million House of Fraser shares enabling the holders to accept the 400p-a-share cash offer being made by the Egyptian Al Fayed brothers.

The court decision came as the Al Fayed disclosed that their £615 million takeover offer had received sufficient levels of acceptance to enable them to acquire all outstanding shares in the company compulsorily.

The 1.3 per cent stake held by German bankers B. Daus and Co. was frozen by the Scottish courts in 1983 after Fraser complained that it was unable to discover the ultimate ownership of the holdings. The order prevented transfer of the shares and froze voting rights and dividend payments on the stock.

Daus applied for the restrictions to be lifted after the Al Fayed made their offer earlier this year. The removal of the restrictions will enable Daus to pocket £8 million by accepting the offer, and takes the Al Fayed's ever closer to full control of the Harrods department stores group.

The brothers' financial advisers at Kleinwort Benson announced yesterday that acceptances of the takeover offer together with shares already owned by the Al Fayed have lifted their holding to 95.4 per cent of the issued share capital.

ATT is leaving the offer open for further acceptances and has meanwhile increased its offer for Fraser's preference shares after meeting mixed success with its original terms.

FIRST QUARTER RESULTS FOR 1985

Royal Insurance

The results for the first quarter are set out below; these should not be taken as providing a reliable indication of the outcome for the year as a whole.

	3 months to 31 March 1985 (unaudited) £m	3 months to 31 March 1984 (unaudited) £m	Year 1984 (audited) £m
General Insurance:			
Premiums Written	712.5	523.4	2,268.4
Underwriting Balance	-139.9	-101.6	-347.4
Investment Income allocated to General Insurance operations	72.5	54.7	237.4
General Insurance Result ..	-67.4	-46.9	-110.0
Long-term Insurance Profit ..	5.9	4.9	20.7
Investment Income attributable to Capital and Reserves	21.9	18.0	87.2
Share of Associated Companies' Profits	2.3	3.6	13.3
Profit/Loss before Taxation ..	-37.3	-20.4	11.2
Less Taxation	11.3	1.3	17.6
	(credit)	(credit)	
Minority Interests	-0.2	0.0	-0.4
Net Loss	-25.8	-19.1	-6.0
Earnings per share — See Note ..	10.9p (loss)	8.0p (loss)	2.5p (loss)
Capital and Reserves	£1,780m	£1,604m	£1,830m

Note: Earnings per share have been adjusted for the one-for-four scrip issue made in June 1984.

EXCHANGE RATES

Foreign currencies have been translated according to our normal practice at approximately the average rates of exchange ruling during the period. The principal rates were:—

USA	\$1.11	\$1.44	\$1.33
Canada	\$1.50	\$1.80	\$1.73
Australia	£1.48	£1.54	£1.52
Netherlands	Fls4.09	Fls4.38	Fls4.27

The pre-tax result has been adversely affected by £6.3m due to changes in exchange rates; the underwriting balance being worsened by £20.2m, with investment income and Associated Companies benefiting by £13.9m.

	3 months to 31st March 1985					3 months to 31st March 1984				
	Premiums Written £m	Under-Writing Balance £m	Allocated Investment Income £m	General Insurance Result £m	Inv. Inc. on Capital & Reserves £m	Pre-tax Profit £m	Premiums Written £m	Under-Writing Balance £m	Allocated Investment Income £m	General Insurance Result £m
Royal USA	315.4	-72.4	37.5	-34.9	7.6	-27.3	206.1	-60.2	26.7	-33.5
Royal UK	179.1	-30.5	15.7	-14.8	3.6	-11.2	158.3	-25.5	14.2	-11.3
Royal Canada	63.8	-17.0	9.2	-7.8	2.3	-5.5	46.2	-9.1	6.8	-2.3
Royal Australia	54.2	-7.2	4.5	-2.7	1.6	-1.1	34.5	1.1	2.6	3.7
Royal International	47.9	-5.0	2.5	-2.5	1.3	-0.3*	34.3	-2.8	1.8	-1.0
Royal Nederland	28.7	-2.9	1.5	-1.4	0.4	-1.0	24.2	-1.4	1.5	0.1
Royal Re	23.4	-4.9	1.6	-3.3	0.7	-2.6	19.8	-3.7	1.1	-2.6
	712.5	-139.9	72.5	-67.4	17.5	-49.0	523.4	-101.6	54.7	-46.9
										14.9
										-31.2

* The pre-tax profit figures for Royal International include the contribution from their Associated Companies of £0.9m in the first three months of 1985 and £0.8m in the same period of 1984.

The result for Royal Australia was impacted by the storm and bush-fire losses in January and a number of large fire claims. Most classes continue to show strong premium growth, particularly commercial lines.

GENERAL INSURANCE

Premium income rose by 36.1% in sterling; allowing for the effect of currency changes, the increase was 18%. Details for the individual operating companies are as follows:—

In the United States the statutory operating ratio after policyholders dividends was 123.1%, down from 128.0% for the first quarter last year. There was a premium volume increase of 23% in commercial lines reflecting the continuation of our firm pricing action helped by the general hardening in that sector of the market. The result in personal lines showed further improvement. Total dollar premium income increased by 18% (13.4% excluding Silvey Corporation).

Premium volume increased by 13.1% in the UK. The winter weather conditions produced a high level of claims on the property accounts costing an estimated £31m, a similar figure to that of the same period last year. The sharp increase in motor claims frequency apparent in the final quarter of 1984 continued, in part reflecting the weather conditions.

In Canada the modest improvement in the commercial lines business was more than offset by a substantial deterioration in the personal automobile line resulting from continued premium inadequacy combined with adverse changes in the legal environment. Premium growth in local terms of 15.2% was largely accounted for by the rate increases on commercial lines business.

The deterioration in experience in Western Europe and losses arising from the Chilean earthquake were largely responsible for the worsening in the Royal International result. Total premium growth in local terms was 29.2% (16.8% excluding Velazquez SA.)

Poor experience in the motor account and an increase in the number of large fire losses affected the result for Royal Nederland. Premium income rose by over 10% in local currency terms.

The adverse experience for Royal Re reflected the continuing difficulties in worldwide reinsurance markets.

ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE

New single premium business in the first quarter of 1985 increased by 28% to £29.4m largely due to higher sales of unit-linked business. New annual premiums were £14.3m, somewhat lower than the first quarter of 1984, which was boosted by a surge of pre-budget business. Individual pension business in the UK, influenced by the possibility of change in the taxation treatment of pensions, was extremely buoyant. The long-term insurance profit increased from £4.9m to £5.9m.

Royal Insurance plc,
Group Head Office,
1 Cornhill, London EC3V 3QR.

Beating the US in the space race



SMALL BUSINESS

AT FIRST sight, a doctor of biochemistry, a yacht designer and an Olympic dinghy sailor would appear to be an unlikely recipe for success in any business. Yet in just four years, Patsy and Rory Carter and New Zealand-born Graham Deegan have made Airwave Gliders into Britain's most profitable manufacturer of aircraft, with a turnover of £750,000 and a healthy profit.

While hang gliding has largely lost its dangerous image, the manufacture of hang gliders is most certainly a risk business. Of the eight manufacturers who set up in business when the sport got off the ground 10 years ago, just one remains and there have been some spectacular liquidations along the way.

In the autumn of 1980, Ultra-light Products of California started to perform significantly better than any other then on the market. Rory Carter, whose only previous involve-

ment with hang gliding had been to engineer a glider test rig for the Civil Airworthiness Authority, saw the opportunity to get to the top of the hang gliding market without having to finance development costs, which can be enormous.

He flew to the US National Championships and signed a deal to make 100 Comets under a European licence. The first Airwave Comet started to come off the line in 1981. At that time, Airwave employed just five people and in the time honoured fashion of young business, overspent its overdraft, a problem it has since managed to avoid.

After the initial production batch of 100 gliders, Airwave and Ultralight Products fell out, the latter believing that, with the dollar then down to \$2.07 to the pound, they could gain their own foothold in Europe. Airwave were undaunted. Graham Deegan, who had been successfully making racing dinghy sails in New Zealand for some time, made some significant and successful changes to the Comet's sail. Rory Carter changed some details in the airframe and the what Airwave Magic glider was born.

The glider was an instant success in the UK, so Carter started to target the markets that continue to buy during the winter - France, Italy, Spain. "We were successful because we went for one market after another, which allowed us to expand steadily," Airwave soon moved from the council "nursery" unit to their 5,000 square foot factory in Cowes, Isle of Wight, financing the

expansion from their profitability.

Germany is one of the few expanding markets in hang gliding, so here was the next target. Airwave completed the necessary airworthiness documentation and shipped one of their gliders to an exhibition of sporting aeroplanes in Friedrichshafen in the spring of 1983. Last year the Germans bought 200 Airwave gliders, a quarter of the total production.

When the British team competed in the US in 1983, they were all flying Magic gliders, and the results could not be ignored. Although the Americans are notoriously hostile to imported gliders, the US National Champion, Chris Bulger, decided to agree with the old maxim "If you cannot beat them, join them" and was appointed Airwave's US distributor.

The first gliders were shipped to the US in the spring of 1984, when the exchange rate was \$1.50. The retail cost of the Magic in the UK was then £1,200, and the average cost of a glider in the US about \$2,300. By the time the airfreight, agent's commission and general distribution costs had been added, the Airwave product ended up at \$2,500, which was not an unreasonable premium to pay for the best.

Of the 800 gliders Airwave produced last year, 80 per cent were exported, with 100 going to the US. With the pound at its current level, Airwave can compete with the US manufacturers head on in terms of price.

Airwave now employs 25



people, with the three partners carrying out clearly defined roles. Graham Deegan oversees the sail production, Rory Carter has productionised the airframes and now is in charge of sales, while his wife Patsy has foreseen biochemistry to take charge of administration and financial control, ably assisted by three Apple computers.

The fact that the order book is full for the next four months is expected to go before the court. "We are supplying aircraft that people can fly at very little cost: foot launchable, foot landable, and trans-

portable on a roof rack. There will always be this market."

But isn't this what hang glider manufacturers have always done, and look how many have gone under? "We take advantage of the prompt payment discount, which is a lot cheaper than using the bank. We don't owe any money. In a risk business, you don't use other people's money."

Almost casually he adds that Ultralight Products, whose Comet design had set Airwave on the road to success, is just gone into liquidation in the US.

Jerome Fack

Working jobcentre

A NUMBER of projects to help young people start in business are now running around the country but one which has made considerable impact already is the Newcastle Youth Enterprise Centre in the North-east.

Brainchild of the lively enterprise agency there, Project North-east, the centre helps young people aged 16-25 to start their own businesses through the provision of workspace, business advice, information, enterprise training, common facilities and access to finance, all under one roof.

It is based in a converted warehouse in the centre of Newcastle and although it will be formally opened by Princess Alexandra at the end of this month it began in temporary accommodation last July and already has some 150 business projects

from young people with whom it is working.

Nine actual new businesses have taken space in the centre in Low Frier Street and all the remaining workspaces will be let by the early summer.

Attention has switched to the second phase of the development with the establishment of several related initiatives, such as the Young Entrepreneurs Club, audio visual materials about youth enterprise for use in schools. There are also plans for a Young Entrepreneurs' Business Exhibition and a local revolving loan fund.

The loan fund objective is to set up a fund large enough to accept a high default rate - though expecting to take steps to minimise losses while at the same time taking risks.

It is also planned to generate investment income suffi-

cient to meet the shortfall in the centre's running and administrative costs of the scheme.

The activities surrounding the Youth Enterprise Centre have already attracted wide attention and in response to those inquiries a one-day seminar has been arranged to share the experience of establishing and running the centre.

The seminar, which will take place on June 17 at the Centre, is aimed at anyone in local authorities, enterprise agencies, or organisations sponsoring local enterprise initiatives.

Further information can be obtained from Carole Wainwright, Project North-east, 45 Grosvenor Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1UG, telephone (0632) 857525.

BASF'84

We announce herewith this year's ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS on Thursday, June 27, 1985, 10.00 a.m. at the BASF Feilchenhaus, Leuschnerstraße 47, Ludwigshafen/Rhine, West Germany

Agenda

1. Presentation of the Financial Statements of BASF Aktiengesellschaft and BASF Aktiengesellschaft and its Consolidated German Subsidiaries; presentation of the Annual Reports of BASF Aktiengesellschaft and BASF Aktiengesellschaft and its Consolidated German Subsidiaries; presentation of the Supervisory Board Report;
2. Declaration of dividend;
3. Ratification of the actions of the Supervisory Board;
4. Ratification of the actions of the Board of Executive Directors;
5. Authorized capital;
6. Appointment of auditors.

Shareholders entitled to participate in the Annual Meeting and to exercise their right to vote are those who have deposited their shares during normal office hours and in the prescribed form at a depositary bank. The shares should remain deposited until the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Shareholders have the right to vote by proxy. Depositary banks are those specified in the "Bundesanzeiger" of the German Federal Republic Nr. 87 of May 10, 1985.

Depositary banks in the U.K. are: Kleinwort, Benson Limited S.G. Warburg & Co. Ltd.

The deposit is only effective if the shares are submitted by Wednesday, June 19, 1985.

Ludwigshafen/Rhine, May 10, 1985
The Board of Executive Directors

BASF Aktiengesellschaft
D-6700 Ludwigshafen

BASF

A month's Good Books

by Harford Thomas

general reader. It is a selection of 500 to 600 of the month's new titles, each with a main title, and sorted into the subject areas sections adopted by The Good Book Guide.

This new venture springs naturally from the original idea, that there are thousands of readers out there somewhere who would buy more books if they knew more about them and could get them more easily. They would also like to know what new books are in the pipeline.

Talking to Patricia and Peter Braithwaite and Bing Taylor - the group of three directors who run the show - find them constantly underlining the idea behind what they are doing. "The ethos behind the guide is terribly important," says Bing. Peter talks about "the concept." Patricia says: "We live the guide really."

As one of their list of a dozen editorial advisers I have had, from time to time, an inside view of the progress of the Good Book Guide. I do not think this occasional ad hoc contact has biased my judgement. I am impressed by what I know, as I was when an outside reporter in 1978.

The three directors are business-like people. They are very attentive to reader feedback and to reader-member tastes. They notice the hardback publishing market pushing the sales trends more and more towards paperbacks - and they note that paperbacks are neglected by media reviewers. Their reader-members want to know what is coming out in paperback - so almost two-thirds of the titles in their monthly list for March are paperbacks.

Booksellers welcome what they are doing, even though they may seem to be competing for their market. In practice, UK readers of The Good Book Guide and its associated guides to children's books

and business books often buy direct from bookshops rather than put in an order by post.

The Good Book Guide has built up an extensive computer data base. This too coincides with the company philosophy of finding out what the readers want. "We are in a unique position to do it," says Peter. "We have a unique overview," says Bing. It gives us the opportunity to think of things from the reader's point of view."

This unique overview of the month's new titles, sorted into the subject areas sections adopted by The Good Book Guide, is a selection of 500 to 600 of the month's new titles, each with a main title, and sorted into the subject areas sections adopted by The Good Book Guide.

A total of 83.4 per cent voted against the Audit Committee recommendations. A further study has shown that "staggering" 91 per cent believed that little or no account would be given to the views of independent retailers in the drafting of the bill which is expected to go before Parliament later this year, says the AIR's newspaper, Independent Retailer.

WORKERS facing job losses can extend the time available for formulating alternative plans if they make use of warning signs of a potential crisis in their firms, says a new booklet produced by the Greater London Council.

Saving Jobs Through Early Warning, produced by the GLC's Industrial Development Unit, examines and explains ways in which company performance can be judged through the firm's accounts.

ONE SMALL company in every four expects to take on more people over the next four months compared with one in five in January, says the Confederation of British Industry in its latest small firms survey.

Of 800 firms questioned 22 per cent said they had actually taken on more people over the last four months, compared with 23 per cent in January.

The CBI says small businesses are more optimistic about the prospects for their firms than they were in January. Output was increased and was expected to improve sharply over the next four months. The rate of increase

Shopkeepers take a cynical view

SIGNPOST

A LARGE majority of shopkeepers who took part in a survey organised by the Association of Independent Retailers opposed the recommendations that all restrictions on trading hours should be abolished.

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The CBI says small businesses are more optimistic about the prospects for their firms than they were in January. Output was increased and was expected to improve sharply over the next four months. The rate of increase

in new orders had also accelerated.

Even so, more than 50 per cent of the small companies questioned were still working below capacity and three-quarters reported a shortage of orders as a constraint on increased output. Investment in plant and machinery was expected to rise over the next year at a faster rate than earlier anticipated.

THE Co-operative Bank has introduced a new cheque and interest business account, paying high interest on credit balances while offering the facilities of an ordinary current account, designed with small and medium-sized businesses in mind.

The bank says that the account offers a convenient method for businesses to manage their cash easily while at the same time being financially rewarded, particularly where there are few debit items. It has been introduced following specific research which established that 62 per cent of all companies interviewed kept the major part of their funds in a current account.

Interest of 13 per cent will be paid on balances of more than £2,500 while balances of between £500 and £2,500 attract 11 per cent.

A COMPETITION for new business ventures in the South-west has been launched by DevonAir Radio and National Westminster Bank with a prize of £5,000.

The competition is open to anyone living in Devon and contestants are being invited to outline their proposals to establish or expand a business venture which will be evaluated at the end of June. Application forms are available from NatWest branches in Devon and from DevonAir Radio.

edited by Clive Woodcock

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SPORTS GUARDIAN



OUT ON HER OWN... Laura Davies ran out of partners yesterday as she took a six-shot lead.

Liz Kahn reports from Paris on the Hennessy Ladies' Cup

Laura's long field day

GOLF

An extraordinary saga unfolded yesterday in the second round of the £50,000 Hennessy Ladies' Cup at St Cloud where 21-year-old Laura Davies from West Byfleet, Surrey, eclipsed the field with a superb seven-under-par 67 for a 12-under-par total of 136. She outstaged the efforts of the Australian-born Jan Stephenson, who, after a second successive 71 is in second place.

With a three-ball ahead, Davies had some interminable gaps between striking the ball. But she chatted happily to Miss Moon as she played the greatest round of her life in only her second professional tournament. The Surrey girl is 5ft 10in and of strong build, which, together with a rhythmic swing, makes her the longest hitter on the WPGA tour. She combines this with a deft touch in her short game. Having shared the overnight lead with her fellow Curtis Cup player Penny Grice on 89, Davies opened yesterday with a birdie on the 416-yard first hole with a drive, a two iron and one putt from 25 feet. For four holes from the fourth she alternately picked up and dropped shots and was out in 35 to be six under.

Bob Fisher on the Royal Lympington Cup

Cudmore under threat

SAILING

Harold Cudmore, five times the champion and current holder of the cup, faces his toughest ever challenge in the British Open match racing championship for the Royal Lympington Cup which starts today. His nine opponents include six skippers from overseas, all of whom are engaged in the next America's Cup challenge.

From America, Tim Stearn, who recently threw in his hand with the challenge of the St Petersburg Yacht Club, is joined by Gary Jobson. Yves Pajot, from France, and Mauro Pellissier, of Italy, provide the European challenge, while Chris Law is Britain's best chance. Andrew Hurst, whose successes with the Admiral's Cupper, Cifraire 3, won him a place in the event when Lawrence Smith pulled out, and Graham Bailey, winner of the junior event last year, complete the line-up. Racing is in Western Fulmar 32 footers and the event is on a round-robin basis.

Yesterday's racing results & prices

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Government backs away from

Treasury proposals

Shake-up for nationalised industries off

By Michael Smith, Industrial Editor

The Government has backed down from seeking sweeping new parliamentary powers to control Britain's nationalised industries.

Mr Peter Rees, chief secretary to the Treasury, told the Commons yesterday that the Government had dropped plans to seek new legislation for the nationalised industries in the 1983-84 parliamentary session.

The Treasury's controversial proposal to tighten its control over running of the nationalised industries was regarded as a good candidate for inclusion in the Queen's Speech this autumn after the Treasury began consultative talks last year.

However, the plan appears to have been thwarted by new moves to privatise British steel. This will be a substantial piece of government legislation requiring considerable parliamentary time.

The proposal on the nationalised industries has met with fierce opposition from virtually every quarter because of fears that the bill would concentrate too much power in the Treasury's hands.

Several senior Cabinet ministers are known to be strenuously opposed to the proposals,

which were outlined in a consultative document issued by the Treasury only hours before the Commons Christmas recess. The proposals have also been criticised by the nationalised industries and by consumer watchdog groups.

Mr Rees adopted the proposals would represent the most radical shake-up of the nationalised industries since the time when many undertakings were taken into public ownership after the war.

The proposals would permit the Treasury to set stringent new targets for the corporations, increasing fees among consumer lobbies, and the nationalised industries would be required to pay a new "poll tax" on their profits.

Mr Rees was indicating yesterday whether the Government was abandoning the proposals altogether. He said that discussions with the nationalised industries were continuing.

Representatives from the nationalised industries are expected to meet Mr Rees early next week as part of the continuing dialogue between the Treasury and the public corporations.

Government to hold fire on GCHQ rebels

By Richard Norton-Taylor

The Government is likely to hold off taking disciplinary action against going officials who have rejoined their union in defiance of the ban on membership, at least for the time being.

This emerged last night after 11 hours of talks between Civil Service union leaders and Sir Robert Armstrong, Cabinet secretary and head of the Home Civil Service, in Whitehall.

They agreed to consider a number of compromise proposals: one would be for those who rejoined their union to repay the £1,000 they received after they gave up membership last year. About 100 GCHQ officials are affected and have been told that they faced disciplinary action.

Mr Peter Jones, secretary of the Council of Civil Service

Unions, said last night that he and his colleagues would happen until a further meeting with Sir Robert, probably in a few weeks' time.

Civil Service union leaders yesterday filed their case against the ban with the European Commission for Human Rights.

The unions have instructed their lawyers to attempt to negotiate an agreement with the Government to maintain the status quo at GCHQ — where about 100 staff are still members of unions — while the commission considers their application.

The International Labour Organisation yesterday urged the Government to reconsider the ban, which an ILO committee said contravened a convention on workers' freedom of association and right to organise.

Stonehenge Tighter checks ordered on MI5

By Martin Wainwright

THE ANCIENT ritual of the irresistible force and the immovable object seems certain to be enacted at Stonehenge in three weeks' time, barring an unexpected compromise between organisers of the free festival and the National Trust.

The grandly-named groups which organise the festival have embarked on a publicity campaign to counter the Trust's "Keep Away" advertisements.

Summons have gone out to members of the Polytechnic Circle, the Tibetan Buddhist Family and the Church of the Immaculate Conception, which paradoxically requires a whole lunar month to enact its rituals.

"The so-called custodians of Stonehenge should realise that what they call a 'pop festival' is in fact a legitimate gathering, a ritual held by those who sincerely believe that there is a very special feeling to be attained there because of the magical situation," says the circle, a national society of anonymous members.

Over 150,000 stickers are being distributed to urge people to join the festival, which would be the 18th annual gathering near the henge. The organisers base their claim to legitimacy on the fact that the courts have granted the National Trust an injunction forbidding attendance against only 83 named individuals.

The trust is determined that no one will camp on the 1,400 acres of land it owns around Stonehenge. The civil law against trespasses will be invoked.

Mr Warren Davies of the Trust said that it was essential to prevent any repetition of the damage to prehistoric sites which occurred in previous years when up to 30,000 people attended the festival.

An English Heritage, the ancient monument commission which owns Stonehenge, has barred the traditional Druid solstice ceremony and surrounded the henge with barbed wire.

The commission's chairman, Lord Mervyn Davies, is known to be keen to encourage orderly rituals at Stonehenge and regards the festival as the greatest obstacle to allowing them.

There is every difference between a ceremony lasting one night and six-week long camp site on one of Europe's most important archaeological sites," said Mr Davies.

Continued from page one

East Germans would look after me better."

In 1983 he delivered two letters containing secret information to a Soviet Embassy official who he believed was a senior officer of the KGB. When there was no response he continued collecting secret information at his home and was eventually uncovered. Last year he was sentenced to 22 years' imprisonment for offences under the Official Secrets Act.

There was surprise in the Commons when Mrs Thatcher stressed that Bettaney's attempts to get himself recruited as an agent of the Russian Intelligence service had not been successful.

Mr Kinnock said: "No man could have tried harder than Bettaney to get himself recruited to the Russian secret service. His fortune in incompetence is not sufficient to reassure about the general condition of our services."

He accused Mrs Thatcher of complacency, and said her response was "not good enough." He alleged the Bettaney case was only the latest in a series of incidents which had shown the security services were not as proficient as they should be but Mrs Thatcher insisted that there were no criticisms in the report of operational efficiency.

However, Mrs Thatcher appeared ready to consider a suggestion put to her by the chairman of the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee, Sir Anthony Kershaw, to set up a permanent inspectorate.

Mrs Thatcher firmly ruled out parliamentary involvement in the security services. She said: "I believe we should continue to enable the security services to run in a secret way — after all, those against whom they operate have the same right to secrecy."

But this did not satisfy Mr Jonathan Aitken, the Tory MP for Thanet South, who said Mrs Thatcher and Cabinet ministers had promised the highest ministerial watch on the security services after the Bismarck affair but the Bettaney report indicated that it was not good enough.

Prospects for settlement dim as teaching unions pull out of meeting with Joseph

By Andrew Moncur

All the teachers' unions last night opted out of a meeting with Sir Keith Joseph — and missed his latest firm refusal of more cash to fund an improved pay offer.

The unions decided against a joint approach with the employers, who went ahead with their informal meeting with the Education Secretary in a search for a solution to the dispute which has caused disruption for thousands of children.

But Sir Keith repeated his long-held argument that there could be no chance of seeking extra money without agreement on salary structure reform.

The employers' had come seeking ways to increase the 4 per cent offer already rejected by the teachers. They asked about the possibility of adjusting their financial targets, penalties and grants in the interests of a negotiated settlement. Sir Keith's answer was no.

He repeated his position that the Government will not find more money without strings for local authorities to settle with the teachers. Cash for any deal above 4 per cent

would have to come from local authority funds.

A Department of Education and Science spokesman said: "There was one set of circumstances in which he would be willing to go to his colleagues and ask for extra money: if the teachers and the employers were to reach an agreement which would be unambiguously good for children and affordable."

That was the position, qualified by his statement that he could not guarantee the response of his colleagues. That he first made last July. Negotiations on structure reform came to an abrupt end last December when the National Union of Teachers walked out of a salary-structure working party.

The prospects of a settlement at next week's meeting of the Burnham pay negotiating committee, headed by Sir John Worrie, independent chairman of the Burnham committee, said that he was still "cautiously optimistic."

Sir John, who chaired yesterday's informal talks between employers' and union leaders, said later: "There seems to exist a real determination to

endeavour to conclude a settlement."

Some teaching unions who initially wished to take up the invitation to meet Sir Keith, had attempted without success to persuade the NUT to change its mind. The NUT accused them of wasting time, which should have been devoted to seeking progress for the Burnham talks.

Mr Doug McAvoy, deputy general secretary of the NUT, accused them of being "stumped by the strenuous prospects of tea and biscuits with Sir Keith" that they had not got on with the business of the day.

The second largest union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, had been eager to talk to Sir Keith. But it backed off in response, it said, to the view of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which sought to avert a split in union ranks.

Mr Nigel A. Gray, deputy general secretary of the NAEU, said: "We were still keen to go but the AMA told us it would embarrass them if only sections of the teachers could accept."

He regretted the NUT decision and said that he was pessimistic about the prospects of any constructive outcome next week. He said: "Unless there is a very strong moral obligation on all of us to explore all possible avenues open to us to find a solution."

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Rates help MP's death plunges Tories into tough byelection test in mid-Wales

Continued from page one

are known to be concerned about what they see as its unfairness and the possibility of a split between "wet" and "dry" wings of the party. A compromise solution appears the most likely.

Mrs Thatcher will chair a ministerial meeting later this month to agree proposals for change.

Alan Travis writes: David Steel, the Liberal leader, and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, criticised Mrs Thatcher in the Commons yesterday for her failure to reform the rate system.

Mr Steel said that the tenth anniversary of her pledge to abolish the rating system had just passed and that no temporary relief would be a substitute for her redeeming that pledge.

Mr Kinnock demanded to know whether Mrs Thatcher, while engaged in a rates U-turn, was also going to give back to Scotland the £1,000 million taken away from its local authorities over the past five years.

Mrs Thatcher claimed that the domestic rate relief package had cancelled out the effects of revaluation and insisted that the high rate difficulties north of the border were due to high-spending Labour councils.

By Martin Linton and Ian Aitken

The Government faces a difficult by-election at Brecon and Radnor in mid-Wales after the death of the constituency's Tory MP, Mr Hooson, who died of cancer on Wednesday night at his London home after a long illness.

Mr Hooson won the seat in 1979 after a career in advertising and as the director of communications at Conservative Central Office. He turned a Labour majority of 3,012 into a Tory majority of 3,027. The seat had been held by Labour for 40 years.

Boundary changes helped him to boost his majority to 8,784 in 1983, with his own vote at 18,255, Labour at 9,471 and Liberal at 9,226.

For the Labour Party it is the first by-election in seven in this parliament where it starts in second place and the best chance of taking the seat from the Government, but its margin over the Alliance is so narrow that there is bound to be a bitter fight for the tactical vote.

The Labour Party went out of its way last night to emphasise that it does not expect to win the by-election. Although Labour has done well there in the past the party's business managers emphasised that the constituency had been radically changed by the Boundaries Commission.

Brynmawr to Cefn Coed where the Labour vote was strongest.

Tributes to Mr Hooson yesterday were led by the Secretary for Wales, Mr Nicholas Edwards. Mr Hooson won the seat in 1979 at the same time as his cousin Elynor Hooson, now the Liberal peer Lord Hooson, was defeated in the neighbouring seat of Montgomery, but the Liberals have recovered much of their strength in mid-Wales and are holding the two neighbouring seats of Ceredigion and Montgomery.

The seat has not, however, been allocated between the Liberals and the SDP and the Tories agreed to hold joint selection.

Labour was already in the process of selecting a candidate when Mr Hooson's death was announced. Possible candidates may include Dr Kim Howells, research officer for the Welsh Arts Council, and the former Labour MP for the seat, Mr Cerywyn Roderick.

The constituency produced the most cliff-hanging result in electoral history in 1929 when the three main parties each won 23 per cent of the vote. Labour won by 14,511 (53.7) over the Conservative with 14,324 (53.3) and the Liberal with 14,162 (53.0).

Until 1983 it included some of the mining communities at the head of the valleys from

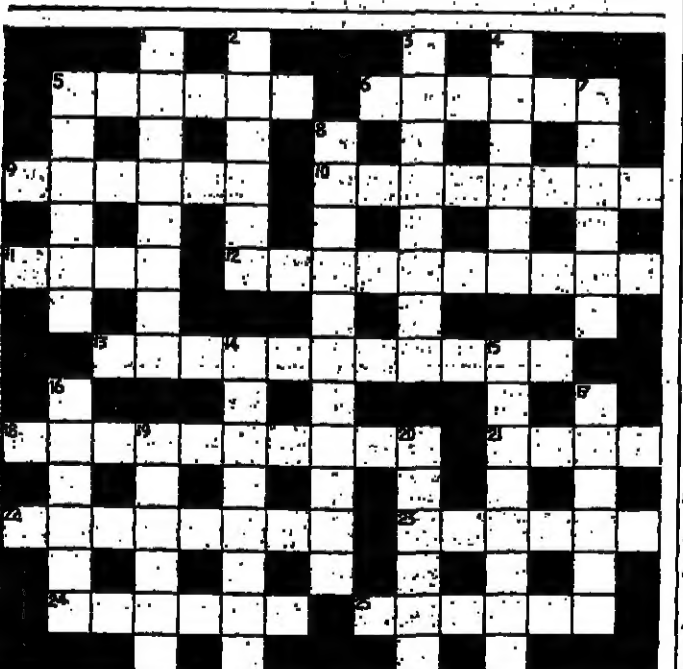


Tom Hooson — ousted Labour

GUARDIAN CROSSWORD 17,232

APEX

13 letters (2 words) should really occur in the answers to the Down clues, the first in the second row and so on in the correct order up to the last letter, which should occur in 20. All these letters must be omitted when the answers are entered, and written out instead on the line below this introduction. Each clue consists of two definitions, one for the unscrambled answer, the other for the mutilated answer entered in the diagram: numbers in brackets indicate which is which. Example clue: "Close call (4, 5)". Answer: SE(0)UT. All Across clues are normal.



- ACROSS
- Playing two pieces of "Rigoletto" and "Aida" slowly (6).
 - About half of scores cut — it's the confusion (4).
 - Soft passage (3) — by Jupiter, perhaps (6).
 - All about to come into existence (8).
 - Advances (4) — a point in reader's action (4).
 - One of the woods performing awfully and within (3-7).
 - One out of tune in business — contraction (4).
 - Carries on with hotel and seems worried (10).
- DOWN
- Desires pay (8, 2).
 - One who turns out the winner (7, 6).
 - Radio band to arrange signals (3, 4, 4).
 - Keep the record polished (6, 7).
 - Plays with friends (7, 6).
 - Showers attendants (6, 7).
 - A Mendelssohn composition making one roguish? (7, 7-9).
 - Latin VIP — Horace, perhaps (3, 3, 5, 4).
 - Being a rounded projection (6, 6).
 - Ill-treats maidens (7, 6).
 - Ex-President Grant? (6, 7).
 - Discourages slimmers? (6, 7).
 - Exhausted shot (6, 7).

THE WEATHER

Showers, some sun

A NORTHEASTERLY airstream covers the British Isles but a ridge of high pressure will build over western areas during the day.

London, E. Angles, E. Midlands, E. Scotland: Rain, with some sun in the afternoon. Wind S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Sea: S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Fog: S.W. 10 to 15 mph.

S. and C. England, Central Ireland: Rain, with some sun in the afternoon. Wind S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Sea: S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Fog: S.W. 10 to 15 mph.

W. and N. England, W. Scotland, N. Ireland: Rain, with some sun in the afternoon. Wind S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Sea: S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Fog: S.W. 10 to 15 mph.

W. and N. England, W. Scotland, N. Ireland: Rain, with some sun in the afternoon. Wind S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Sea: S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Fog: S.W. 10 to 15 mph.

W. and N. England, W. Scotland, N. Ireland: Rain, with some sun in the afternoon. Wind S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Sea: S.W. 10 to 15 mph. Fog: S.W. 10 to 15 mph.

AROUND THE WORLD

LUNCH-TIME REPORTS

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	12	10	100	1015
Edinburgh	10	10	100	1015
Birmingham	12	10	100	1015
Manchester	12	10	100	1015
Cardiff	12	10	100	1015
Belfast	12	10	100	1015
Stockholm	12	10	100	1015
Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015
Stockholm	12	10	100	1015
Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015

AROUND BRITAIN

REPORTS FOR 24 HOURS ended 5.00 p.m.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	12	10	100	1015
Edinburgh	10	10	100	1015
Birmingham	12	10	100	1015
Manchester	12	10	100	1015
Cardiff	12	10	100	1015
Belfast	12	10	100	1015
Stockholm	12	10	100	1015
Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015
Stockholm	12	10	100	1015
Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015

SATELLITE PREDICTIONS

REPORTS FOR 24 HOURS ended 5.00 p.m.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	12	10	100	1015
Edinburgh	10	10	100	1015
Birmingham	12	10	100	1015
Manchester	12	10	100	1015
Cardiff	12	10	100	1015
Belfast	12	10	100	1015
Stockholm	12	10	100	1015
Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015
Stockholm	12	10	100	1015
Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015

SUN RISES

REPORTS FOR 24 HOURS ended 5.00 p.m.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	12	10	100	1015
Edinburgh	10	10	100	1015
Birmingham	12	10	100	1015
Manchester	12	10	100	1015
Cardiff	12	10	100	1015
Belfast	12	10	100	1015
Stockholm	12	10	100	1015
Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015
Stockholm	12	10	100	1015
Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015

SUN SETS

REPORTS FOR 24 HOURS ended 5.00 p.m.

Location	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Pressure
London	12	10	100	1015
Edinburgh	10	10	100	1015
Birmingham	12	10	100	1015
Manchester	12	10	100	1015
Cardiff	12	10	100	1015
Belfast	12	10	100	1015
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Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015
Stockholm	12	10	100	1015
Helsinki	12	10	100	1015
Oslo	12	10	100	1015
Copenhagen	12	10	100	1015

THE GUARDIAN

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For facsimile only: 01-837 2114

In Manchester: 184 Deansgate

Manchester M60 2RR

Telephone: 061-832 7200

Telephone Advertisement

Sales: London: 01-430 1234

Manchester: 061-832 7200

Ext. 2181

Printed and published by Guardian

Newspapers Limited at 119 Farringdon Road,

London EC1R 3ER. Registered with the

Registrar of Companies under No. 1316729.

The Guardian and Manchester Evening News

are published by Guardian Newspapers Ltd.

at the Post Office, ISSN 005-3